Frommer's®

San Diego day BY day

1st Edition

by Mark Hiss

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VISIT…

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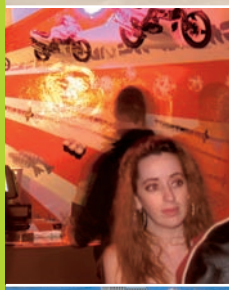

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A Note from the Publisher

Organizing your time. That's what this guide is all about.

Other guides give you long lists of things to see and do and then expect you to fit the pieces together. The Day by Day guides are different. These guides tell you the best of everything, and then they show you how to see it *in the smartest, most time-efficient way*. Our authors have designed detailed itineraries organized by time, neighborhood, or special interest. And each tour comes with a bulleted map that takes you from stop to stop.

Hoping to loll on a beach in San Diego's year-round perfect weather? Sample fish tacos or visit the giant pandas at one of the nation's finest zoos? How about strolling through Old Town, the cradle of modern California, or the Gaslamp Quarter, where San Diego's urban revival began? Whatever your interest or schedule, the Day by Days give you the smartest routes to follow. Not only do we take you to the top attractions, hotels, and restaurants, but we also help you access those special moments that locals get to experience—those "finds" that turn tourists into travelers.

The Day by Days are also your top choice if you're looking for one complete guide for all your travel needs. The best hotels and restaurants for every budget, the greatest shopping values, the wildest nightlife—it's all here.

Why should you trust our judgment? Because our authors personally visit each place they write about. They're an independent lot who say what they think and would never include places they wouldn't recommend to their friends. They're also open to suggestions from readers. If you'd like to contact them, please send your comments my way at mspring@wiley.com, and I'll pass them on.

Enjoy your Day by Day guide—the most helpful travel companion you can buy. And have the trip of a lifetime.

Warm regards,

Michael Spring, Publisher
Frommer's Travel Guides

About the Author

A third-generation Southern Californian, **Mark Hiss** is a writer and photographer who has lived in San Diego for more than 25 years. Founding editor of the visitor guide *Where San Diego* and *Performances,* he wrote *Frommer's San Diego 2008* and contributed to *Frommer's California 2008*.

An Additional Note

Please be advised that travel information is subject to change at any time—and this is especially true of prices. We therefore suggest that you write or call ahead for confirmation when making your travel plans. The authors, editors, and publisher cannot be held responsible for the experiences of readers while traveling. Your safety is important to us, however, so we encourage you to stay alert and be aware of your surroundings.

Star Ratings, Icons & Abbreviations

Every hotel, restaurant, and attraction listing in this guide has been ranked for quality, value, service, amenities, and special features using a **star-rating system.** Hotels, restaurants, attractions, shopping, and nightlife are rated on a scale of zero stars (recommended) to three stars (exceptional). In addition to the star-rating system, we also use a **kids icon** to point out the best bets for families. Within each tour, we recommend cafes, bars, or restaurants where you can take a break. Each of these stops appears in a shaded box marked with a coffee-cup-shaped bullet .

The following **abbreviations** are used for credit cards:

AE	American Express	DISC	Discover	V	Visa
DC	Diners Club	MC	MasterCard		

Frommers.com

Now that you have this guidebook to help you plan a great trip, visit our website at **www.frommers.com** for additional travel information on more than 3,600 destinations. We update features regularly to give you instant access to the most current trip-planning information available. At Frommers.com, you'll find scoops on the best airfares, lodging rates, and car rental bargains. You can even book your travel online through our reliable travel booking partners. Other popular features include:

A Note on Prices

In the "Take a Break" and "Best Bets" sections of this book, we have used a system of dollar signs to show a range of costs for 1 night in a hotel (the price of a double-occupancy room) or the cost of an entree at a restaurant. Use the following table to decipher the dollar signs:

Cost	Hotels	Restaurants
$	under $100	under $10
$$	$100–$200	$10–$20
$$$	$200–$300	$20–$30
$$$$	$300–$400	$30–$40
$$$$$	over $400	over $40

An Invitation to the Reader

In researching this book, we discovered many wonderful places—hotels, restaurants, shops, and more. We're sure you'll find others. Please tell us about them, so we can share the information with your fellow travelers in upcoming editions. If you were disappointed with a recommendation, we'd love to know that, too. Please write to:

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18 Favorite **Moments**

18 Favorite **Moments**

A surfer in La Jolla.

If you think San Diego is just about wiggling your toes in the sand or cooing over panda bears, prepare yourself to be surprised by this seaside destination with big-city style and small-town heart. This place has it all. It's an embarrassment of riches, really, but they stack up undeniably—stunning natural beauty, high-octane nightlife, world-class cultural organizations, family-friendly attractions, and sophisticated dining. Oh, did I mention we have the country's best weather? We're also perched on the world's busiest international border—with the sights, sounds, and tastes of Mexico just a chihuahua's length away.

1 Escaping to Torrey Pines State Reserve. Dramatically set atop 300-foot (91m) cliffs overlooking the Pacific, this reserve is home to the rarest pine tree in North America. Short trails crisscross the delicate landscape, which also encompasses one of San Diego's best beaches. *See p 87.*

2 Taking in the city's best panorama. Cabrillo National Monument affords a whirlwind history tour, beginning with San Diego's European discovery in 1542, as well as unsurpassed 360-degree views of downtown and beyond. From its location at the tip of Point Loma—and at 422 feet (129m) above sea level—it's also a great vantage point from which to watch migrating Pacific gray whales in the winter. *See p 88.*

3 Communing with seals and sea lions. The Children's Pool, a picturesque cove in La Jolla, was named for the toddlers who could safely frolic behind its protective, man-made seawall. A colony of

Torrey Pines State Reserve.

The lighthouse at Cabrillo National Monument.

pinnipeds came to like it equally, and now the beach is shared—sometimes a little uneasily—between humans and seals. *See p 60.*

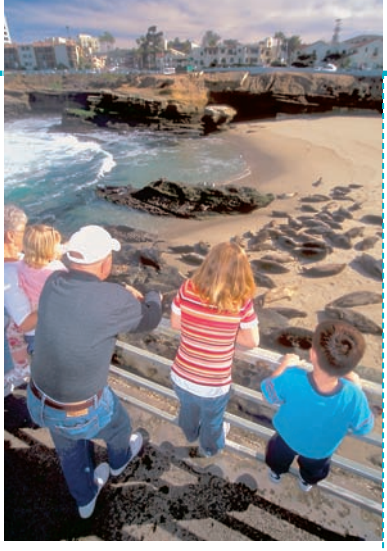
4 Zipping across the San Diego–Coronado Bay Bridge. Roll down the windows, put the top down, and let the wind blow through your hair as you cruise along this graceful engineering marvel. It's always a bit of a rush, and the views are spectacular, so don't forget to keep your eyes on the road. *See p 66.*

5 Making a run for the border. What a difference a line makes. Once you cross it, you're instantly immersed in the chaotic vibrancy of Mexico's fourth-largest city. Just a 20-minute drive from downtown, Tijuana has a raucous tourist zone with plentiful shopping, as well as an array of cultural and culinary delights. *See p 155.*

6 Spending an idyllic day in Balboa Park. San Diego's crown jewel is one of the world's great urban cultural parks, home to more than a dozen of the city's top museums. There are dazzling gardens, glorious Spanish Golden Age buildings, and the world-famous San Diego Zoo as well. *See p 9.*

7 Toasting the good life. Just across the county line in Temecula, about 60 miles (97km) north of downtown San Diego, are some two-dozen wineries. They range

The Cabrillo National Monument.



Sea lions lolling on the beach at the Children's Pool in La Jolla.

from mom-and-pop operations with minimal amenities to slick commercial ventures with fancy tasting rooms, retail boutiques, and restaurants. Cheers! *See p 149.*

8 **Being a groundling.** You won't have to stand as they did in William Shakespeare's day, but you can see the Bard's works alfresco at the Old Globe Theatre's summer Shakespeare Festival. The Tony Award–winning Old Globe hosts performances of Shakespeare's work in repertory style, alternating three different productions at its open-air theater. *See p 22.*

9 **Paddling with the fishes.** The calm surfaces and clear waters of the San Diego–La Jolla Underwater Park are the ultimate local spot for a little kayaking. This ecological reserve features sea caves and vibrant marine life, including California's state fish, the electric-orange garibaldi. *See p 60.*

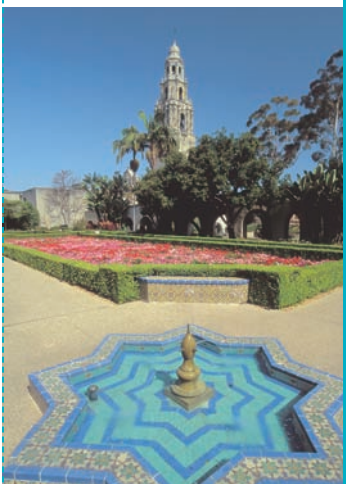
10 **Buying some peanuts and Cracker Jacks.** San Diego's Major League Baseball team, the Padres, plays at PETCO Park, a state-of-the-art ballpark that opened in 2004. Incorporating seven buildings that date as far back as 1909, PETCO's clever design and downtown location have made it a local favorite. *See p 129.*

11 **Witnessing the desert's spring fling.** For a period of several weeks—usually late February through March—Anza-Borrego Desert State Park magically comes alive with a carpet of blooming wildflowers. A brilliant palette of pink, lavender, red, orange, and yellow transforms the rugged landscape into a colorful oasis. *See p 98.*

12 **Getting in touch with your pioneer spirit.** The mountain hamlet of Julian was founded as a gold-mining town in the 1860s, but it gained fame as a mother lode for apples as well. Today, this rustic community has a distinctly Victorian, Old West charm, redolent of hot apple pies. *See p 150.*

13 **Challenging your perception.** The city's newest cultural icon is the downtown expansion of the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, which has grafted gorgeous

Balboa Park.



The Bitter End in the Gaslamp Quarter.

galleries onto the historic Santa Fe Depot. There are permanent, commissioned works by blue-chip artists such as Richard Serra, as well as ongoing exhibitions of cutting-edge work. *See p 57.*

14 Strolling the Gaslamp Quarter. For dining, shopping, dancing, drinking, or just wandering around without a set plan, this is the place to be. People-watching opportunities are rampant here—if you can manage to take your eyes off the exquisitely restored Victorian commercial buildings in this 16½-block district. *See p 11.*

15 Rocking out in a Quonset hut. Since the mid-1970s, the Belly Up Tavern has been San Diego's best live-music venue. Ensconced in a World War II–era Quonset hut in a now-chic neighborhood, the BUT has a classic beach-bar vibe, great sound, and zero attitude. It presents international artists of all genres. *See p 120.*

16 Scouting for whales. Every year, from December through March, Pacific gray whales pass through San Diego waters, making their way to and from breeding lagoons in Mexico. There are ample opportunities to observe these gentle giants from both land and sea as they undertake one of the longest migrations of any mammal. *See p 32.*

17 Watching for the green flash. There's no better place to watch for the storied "green flash"—which occurs when the sun sinks beneath the horizon—than the Top of the Hyatt. This luxe lounge is located 40 stories above the Embarcadero in the West Coast's tallest waterfront building. *See p 119.*

18 Cruising the bay. Whether you take a weekend-brunch sightseeing tour, a chartered sailboat excursion, or a water-taxi ride to Coronado, don't miss an opportunity to spend some time on San Diego Bay. Spanish conquistador Sebastián Vizcaíno described it in 1602 as "a port which must be the best to be found in all the South Sea." Discover it for yourself. *See the Embarcadero Neighborhood tour on p 54.*

1 The Best **Full-Day Tours**

The Best in One Day

A peacock at the San Diego Zoo.

If you have only 24 hours in San Diego, you may be tempted to blow the whole day on the beach or at the zoo. While it's hard to challenge that approach, it would deprive you of experiencing San Diego's robust and unusual heritage as the birthplace of California, with deep ties to Spain, Mexico, Wild West history, and the U.S. military. Besides, you'll still get plenty of sun as you tour through Old Town, and you just might hear the animals squawk and roar from the zoo as you explore Balboa Park next door. **START: Blue or Green Line trolley to Old Town Transit Center.**

1 ★ Old Town State Historic Park. Dedicated to re-creating the early life of the city from 1821 to 1872, this is where San Diego's Mexican heritage is best celebrated. It's California's most-visited state park, featuring 20 structures (some original, some re-constructed), including the home of a wealthy family, circa 1872, and the fledgling town's one-room schoolhouse. Memorabilia and exhibits are on view in some buildings; visitor-oriented shops and restaurants are incorporated into the rest. On Wednesdays, from 10am to 1pm, costumed park volunteers reenact life in the 1800s with cooking and crafts demonstrations, a working blacksmith, and parlor singing. Free 1-hour walking tours leave daily at 11am and 2pm from the Robinson-Rose House. *90 min. The park is bordered by Juan, Congress, Twiggs, and Wallace sts. 619/220-5422. www.parks.ca.gov. Free admission. Museums daily 10am–5pm, most restaurants till 9pm. Trolley: Blue or Green Line to Old Town.*

2 ★★★ kids Balboa Park. Like New York's Central Park and San Francisco's Golden Gate, Balboa Park is the emerald in San Diego's crown. This 1,174-acre (475 hectare) city-owned playground is the largest

A synagogue in Old Town's Heritage Park.

Balboa Park.

urban cultural park in the nation. The park's most distinctive features are its mature landscaping, the architectural beauty of the Spanish Golden Age–style buildings lining the pedestrian thoroughfare (byproducts of expositions in 1915 and 1935), and its 15 engaging and diverse museums. You'll also find eight different gardens, walkways, 4½ miles (7km) of hiking trails in Florida Canyon, an ornate pavilion with the world's largest outdoor organ, an old-fashioned carousel, an IMAX domed theater, the acclaimed Old Globe Theatre, and the San Diego Zoo. *3 hr. (or more, depending on which museums pique your interest). Primary entrances are at Sixth Ave. and Laurel St. on the west side and Park Blvd. and Presidents Way on the east side. ☎ 619/239-0512. www.balboapark.org. Museum prices vary, but several are free every Tues; free organ concerts are presented every Sun at 2pm and Mon–Thurs at 7:30pm in summer; free as well as paid, self-guided tours are available from the Visitor Center, open daily 9:30am–4:30pm (extended hours in summer). Attraction hours vary, but many are 10am–5pm. Bus: 7, 7A/B, 1, 3, and 120; a free tram operates within the park, daily 8:30am–6pm (extended hours in summer).*

Flamingos at the San Diego Zoo.

The Prado. For lunch, dinner, or drinks and appetizers, Balboa Park's sophisticated-but-casual Prado restaurant is a great place to catch your breath. This sprawling restaurant complex in the baroque House of Hospitality has lovely patio dining, a lounge with live entertainment, and special event spaces where wine tastings and cooking classes are held. *1549 El Prado. ☎ 619/557-9441. www.cohnrestaurants.com. $$.*

4 ★★ Gaslamp Quarter. Where others had seen only dismal mudflats melting into a shallow bay, businessman Alonzo Horton saw untapped potential. In 1867 he undertook an audacious plan to lure citizens away from Old Town with the founding of "New Town," several miles to the south. New Town is now known as the Gaslamp Quarter, and it has become more successful than anything Alonzo could have hoped for. It's comprised of 16½ blocks of restored historic buildings housing dozens of restaurants, bars, clubs, and boutiques—this is where you'll find San Diego's most vigorous nightlife, fabulous Victorian architecture, and excellent people-watching. You can begin your tour of the area at Horton Plaza shopping center, where you can not only shop and dine, but also catch a play or a movie. *90 minutes (not including dining or entertainment options). The district is bounded by Broadway on the north, L St. and the waterfront to the south, Fourth Ave. to the west, and Sixth Ave. to the east. Gaslamp Quarter Association ☎ 619/233-5227. www.gaslamp.org. Mall stores tend to stay open till 9pm, 6pm on weekends; smaller stores are open till 5 or 6pm. Restaurants serve till 10pm, with longer hours on weekends. Bars and clubs are open till 2am. Crowds are thick Thurs–Sat and whenever there's a large convention in town or a baseball game at PETCO Park. Parking structures are available at Horton Plaza, Market St. and Sixth Ave., and Sixth Ave. and K St. Trolley: Orange Line. Bus: Any downtown route.*

5 Altitude Skybar. Finish off your day by rising above it all for a nightcap at this open-air bar 22 floors above the Gaslamp commotion. This long, narrow space is located in the Gaslamp Quarter Marriott and looks down on PETCO Park and the Convention Center. It offers fire pits, lounges, and DJ-spun grooves, as well as appetizers from the first-floor restaurant. As with many Gaslamp Quarter venues, lines begin forming around 10pm on weekends (or when the Padres are playing). *660 K St. (between Sixth and Seventh aves.). ☎ 619/696-0234. www.atltitudeskybar.com. Daily 5pm–1:30am. $–$$.*

The scene on the roof at Altitude Skybar.

The Best in Two Days

You don't have to venture far for stunning natural settings in San Diego, which means it's easy to season your nature romps with a little history, great food, and even some shopping. This itinerary showcases the extremes of SoCal coastal living, from rollicking Pacific Beach to refined La Jolla. You'll really need your sunscreen today, though. A car is in order too. While it is possible to tackle this itinerary via public transportation, it's much more practical to have your own set of wheels. **START: Bus route 28C to Cabrillo National Monument.**

1 ★★★ kids Cabrillo National Monument. Breathtaking views mingle with the early history of San Diego—specifically the arrival of Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo in 1542. His statue is prominently featured here, along with a historic lighthouse built in 1855, a small museum, the remnants of World War II artillery batteries, a visitor center with lots of books and souvenirs for sale, and a theater screening short videos about local natural history and the age of exploration. The park's setting, 422 feet (129m) above sea level at the tip of Point Loma, makes it a great vantage point for watching migrating Pacific gray whales December through March. National Park Service rangers also lead walks at the monument, and there are tide pools to explore at the base of the peninsula. The Bayside Trail is an easy hike (3.2-miles/5km round-trip) along an interpreted walkway that leads to a lookout over the bay. *2 hr. There are great picnicking spots here, but no food facilities, so pack a lunch. 1800 Cabrillo Memorial Dr. 619/557-5450. www.nps.gov/cabr. Admission $5 per vehicle, $3 for walk-ins. Daily 9am–5pm. Bus: Route 28C from Old Town Transit Center.*

2 Mission Beach and Pacific Beach. This is it. Ground zero for the party hearty, freewheeling Southern California beach life. These two beaches form a 3-mile (5km) stretch of sand paralleled by a cement boardwalk that hosts a nonstop parade of surfers, skaters, bikers, joggers, and plain old beach lovers. South Mission Beach is where you'll find serious beach volleyball and a seaside basketball court. Farther north is Belmont Park, an amusement park whose star attraction is a 1925 wooden roller coaster. Another 1925 holdover is Crystal Pier at the foot of Garnet Ave. in Pacific Beach (or PB as it's known). This 400-foot- (122m-)

Cabrillo National Monument.

The boardwalk at Mission Beach.

long wooden pier now supports rental cottages, but is open daily to the public, offering great views of the local surfers. The streetside action in these beach zones takes place primarily on Mission Blvd. (heading north from Belmont Park) and Garnet Ave. (running east from Mission Blvd.), which are both overflowing with restaurants, clubs, and retailers. Rent a bike and join the parade. 🕘 ***3 hr. (or more, depending on how much frolicking in the surf you want to do). Discover Pacific Beach: ☎ 858/273-3303. www.pacificbeach.org. Bus: Route 8 from Old Town Transit Center.***

3 Lahaina Beach House. This old beach bungalow transformed into a simple, unpretentious, utterly rocking eatery and bar, has been a PB institution for a generation. Its weathered wooden deck, just inches from the boardwalk, is standing-room-only on sunny weekends, and provides a sensory overload of sights and sounds. The food is basic—omelets, burgers, fish tacos; the atmosphere is pure beach party. Cash only. ***710 Oliver Ave. (along the boardwalk between Reed Ave. and Pacific Beach Dr.). ☎ 858/270-3888. 8am–9pm. $.***

4 ★★★ La Jolla. About the only thing La Jolla shares in common with the beach communities to the south is the Pacific Ocean. Locals refer to La Jolla's principal shopping and dining district as "the village," and it's one of the classiest villages you could imagine. High-end boutiques, antique stores, art galleries, and fine restaurants line the streets; while just steps away, a dramatic coastline of sandstone cliffs and picturesque coves with tropical-blue waters awaits. And this beauty has brains, too—La Jolla is a center for local arts and culture, providing a

A surfer on Pacific Beach.

Seaside inspiration in La Jolla.

home for the University of California, San Diego (where you'll find the Tony Award–winning La Jolla Playhouse and the Stuart Collection of site-specific art); the flagship space for the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego; and the Athenaeum Music and Arts Library, which presents concerts and art exhibits. La Jolla is a Southern California Riviera. ***3 hr. (or more if you want to enjoy an exhibit or show). www.lajollabythesea.com. 858/454-5718. Bus: Route 30 from Mission Blvd. and Grand Ave. in PB.***

★ The Whaling Bar. La Valencia Hotel is the grande dame of La Jolla. The Pink Lady originally opened in 1926, and its Mediterranean style and killer location made it a favorite of Hollywood Golden Age celebs like Greta Garbo and Charlie Chaplin. The hotel's clubby watering hole, The Whaling Bar, became something of a West Coast Algonquin for literary types, as well as a popular spot for a second generation of movie stars brought in by La Jolla native Gregory Peck, who also co-founded the La Jolla Playhouse. Stop in for a drink and listen closely—you just might hear those walls talking. ***1132 Prospect St. (at Herschel Ave.). 800/451-0772 or 858/454-0772. www.lavalencia.com. 11:30am–10pm. $–$$.***

A kite runner on Pacific Beach.

The Best in Three Days

Now that you have an overview of the city—from its Spanish colonial and Mexican-American frontier roots to its supercharged nightlife and lively, lovely beach communities—it's time to go where the wild things are. Put on a pair of comfortable shoes and head out to San Diego's best-known attraction, the San Diego Zoo. Then cap your day with a visit to the area's most iconic structure: the Hotel Del Coronado. **START: Bus 7 or 7A/B to the San Diego Zoo.**

1 ★★★ kids San Diego Zoo. "World famous" often precedes any mention of the San Diego Zoo, and for good reason. Established in 1916, the zoo was a pioneer in developing naturalistic, humane enclosures. It's also a global leader in endangered species preservation with its breeding programs. Highlights include **giant pandas** (this is one of only four zoos in the country with pandas in residence); **Monkey Trails and Forest Tales,** the zoo's largest, most elaborate habitat, re-creating a wooded forest filled with a variety of rare creatures; and **Gorilla Tropics,** housing two troops of lowland gorillas. Also notable are **Ituri Forest,** which simulates an African rainforest (complete with hippos viewed from underwater via a wall of glass), and the ever-popular **Children's Zoo,** featuring lots of pettable animals. *At least 4 hr. 2920 Zoo Dr. ☎ 619/234-3153 (recorded info), or 619/231-1515. www.sandiegozoo.org. Admission $23 adults, $16 children 3–11, free for military in uniform; "Best Value" package (admission, 35-min. guided bus tour, round-trip Skyfari aerial tram) $33 adults, $29 seniors, $22 children. Sept–mid-June daily 9am–4pm (grounds close at 5 or 6pm); mid-June–Aug daily 9am–8pm (grounds close at 9pm). Bus: 7 or 7A/B.*

Elephants at the San Diego Zoo.

2 ★★★ Extraordinary Desserts. You've earned this one. After all the walking you've done, even the most demanding diet plan will surely allow for a sinful creation from this local standout. Set in an architecturally striking space, Extraordinary Desserts also serves panini, salads, and artisan cheeses, as well as wine and beer. Chef/proprietor Karen Krasne sells her own line of jams, confections, and syrups, too, so you can take a taste of San Diego home. *Bus 7 or 7A/B to Broadway and Union St., walk 4 blocks north to 1430 Union St. ☎ 619/294-7001. www.extraordinarydesserts.com. Mon–Thurs 8:30am–11pm; Fri 8:30am–midnight; Sat 10am–midnight; Sun 10am–11pm. $–$$.*

3 Embarcadero. Take a leisurely stroll down San Diego's waterfront, where the sights include the flotilla of historic vessels that make up the San Diego Maritime Museum. Most impressive is the **Star of India,** which originally put to sea in 1863, making it the world's oldest active ship. Continue to the Broadway Pier where you can catch the ferry to Coronado. *20 min. Broadway Pier, 1050 N. Harbor Dr., at the intersection of Broadway. ☎ 619/234-4111. Ferries run Sun–Thurs on the hour 9am–9pm; Fri–Sat until 10pm. They return from the Ferry Landing in Coronado to the Broadway Pier Sun–Thurs every hour on the half-hour 9:30am–9:30pm; Fri–Sat until 10:30pm. The ride takes 15 minutes. The fare is $3 each way. Buy tickets at the Harbor Excursion kiosk on Broadway Pier or at the Ferry Landing in Coronado.*

4 ★★★ Hotel Del Coronado. This is the last of California's stately old seaside hotels. In continuous operation since 1888, the Del is a monument to Victorian grandeur, with cupolas, turrets, and gingerbread trim, making it San Diego's most recognizable property. There is plenty here to engage a nonguest, including a gallery devoted to the hotel's history, a shopping arcade, and several wonderful options for drinks or dining. The hotel sits on one of San Diego's best beaches. *1 hr. 1500 Orange Ave. ☎ 800/468-3533 or 619/435-6611. www.hoteldel.com. Bus: 904 from the Ferry Landing.*

The Midway in the Embarcadero.

2 The Best Special-Interest Tours

Balboa Park

1. Cabrillo Bridge
2. San Diego Museum of Man
3. Old Globe Theatre
4. Alcazar Garden
5. Mingei International Museum
6. San Diego Museum of Art
7. Timken Museum of Art
8. Visitors Center
9. Palm Canyon
10. Japanese Friendship Garden Tea Pavilion
11. Spreckels Organ Pavilion
12. House of Pacific Relations International Cottages
13. San Diego Automotive Museum
14. San Diego Air & Space Museum
15. San Diego Hall of Champions Sports Museum
16. Botanical Building & Lily Pond
17. Museum of Photographic Arts
18. San Diego Model Railroad Museum
19. Reuben H. Fleet Science Center
20. San Diego Natural History Museum
21. Spanish Village Art Center
22. San Diego Miniature Railroad & Carousel
23. Gardens

Mission Basilica San Diego de Alcalá.

Established in 1868, Balboa Park is the second oldest city park in the United States. Much of its striking architecture, which now houses a variety of museums, was the product of the 1915–16 Panama-California Exposition and the 1935–36 California Pacific International Exposition. What makes Balboa Park unique is its extensive and mature botanical collection, owing largely to the efforts of Kate Sessions, a horticulturist who devoted her life to transforming the desolate mesas and scrub-filled canyons into the oases they are today (*see p 9, bullet 2*). *Note:* The park encompasses 15 museums, so try to start with the 2 or 3 that most appeal to you. **START: Bus 1, 3, 7, 7A/B, or 120 to Balboa Park.**

1 ★ Cabrillo Bridge. Offering excellent views of downtown, the bridge straddles scenic, sycamore-lined Highway 163 and provides a dramatic entrance to the park. Built in 1915 for the Panama-California Exposition, it's patterned after a bridge in Ronda, Spain. Directly ahead are the distinctive California Tower of the Museum of Man and the park's main thoroughfare, El Prado. ***This is the west-side entrance to the park; Laurel St. leads directly to the bridge.***

Inside the Museum of Man.

2 ★ kids San Diego Museum of Man. This anthropological museum has an emphasis on the peoples of North and South America; there are also Egyptian mummies and relics, and a museum store with great folk art. The exterior doubled as part of Kane's mansion in the 1941 Orson Welles classic *Citizen Kane;* historical figures carved on the facade include conquistador Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo, Spanish Kings Charles I and Phillip III, and, at

The Alcazar Garden.

The Old Globe Theatre.

the very top, Father Junípero Serra. 🕘 *1 hr.* ☎ *619/239-2001. www.museumofman.org. Admission $8 adults, $6 seniors, $4 children 6–17, free for children under 6. Free 3rd Tues of the month. Daily 10am–4:30pm.*

3 ★★★ Old Globe Theatre. This is actually a three-theater complex that includes the Old Globe, an outdoor stage, and a small theater-in-the-round. The Old Globe was built for the 1935 exposition as a replica of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre. It was meant to be demolished after the fair but was saved by a group of dedicated citizens. In 1978, an arsonist destroyed the theater, which was rebuilt into what you see today. *Backstage tours are offered select weekends at 10:30am and cost $5 for adults, $2 for students, seniors, and military. Performances are Tues–Sun, with weekend matinees. The box office is open Mon (and other nonperformance days) noon–6pm, Tues–Sun noon–8pm.* ☎ *619/234-5623. www.theoldglobe.org. Tickets $19–$65.*

4 ★ Alcazar Garden. This formal garden is patterned after the ones surrounding the Alcazar Castle in Sevilla, Spain. The large tree at the rear is an Indian laurel fig, planted by Kate Sessions when the park was first landscaped.

5 ★★ Mingei International Museum. The Mingei offers changing exhibitions that celebrate human creativity expressed in textiles, costumes, jewelry, toys, pottery, paintings, and sculpture. The gift shop alone is worth a visit. 🕘 *30 min.–1 hr.* ☎ *619/239-0003. www.mingei.org. Admission $6 adults, $3 children 6–17 and students with ID, free for children under 6. Free 3rd Tues of each month. Tues–Sun 10am–4pm.*

6 ★ San Diego Museum of Art. The exquisite facade was inspired by the famous university building in Salamanca, Spain. The three life-size figures over the scalloped entryway are the Spanish

The Mingei Museum.

painters Bartolomé Murillo, Francisco de Zurbarán, and Diego Velázquez. The museum holds San Diego's most extensive collection of fine art; major touring exhibitions are presented, as well. There's also an ongoing schedule of concerts, films, and lectures, usually themed with a current show. *At least 1 hr. ☎ 619/232-7931. www.sdmart.org. Admission $10 adults, $8 seniors and military, $7 college students, $4 children 6–17, free for children under 6. Admission to traveling exhibits varies. Free 3rd Tues of each month. The lovely Sculpture Garden is always free. Tues–Sun 10am–6pm (Thurs until 9pm).*

7 ★ Timken Museum of Art. This small, always-free museum houses a collection of 19th-century American paintings and works by European old masters, as well as a worthy display of Russian icons and San Diego's only Rembrandt painting. *30 min. ☎ 619/239-5548. www.timkenmuseum.org. Free admission. Tues–Sat 10am–4:30pm; Sun 1:30–4:30pm. Closed Sept.*

8 Visitors Center. Pick up maps, souvenirs, and discount tickets to the museums; guided and self-guided tours begin here, too. In the courtyard behind the Visitors Center, you'll find the beautiful *Woman of Tehuantepec* fountain sculpture by Donal Hord, as well as the Prado restaurant, *see p 10, bullet* 3.

9 ★★ Palm Canyon. Fifty species of palm, plus magnolia trees and a Moreton Bay fig tree, provide a tropical canopy along this short, dead-end walkway. It's secluded, so exercise caution if walking here alone.

10 ★ Japanese Friendship Garden Tea Pavilion. This tranquil spot serves fresh sushi, noodle soups, and Asian salads—it also carries quirky imported Japanese candies and beverages in addition to some familiar American snacks. The teahouse overlooks an 11½-acre (5-hectare) canyon that has been carefully developed to include traditional Japanese elements, including a small meditation garden. *☎ 619/231-0048. www.cohnrestaurants.com. Tea Pavilion admission is free; admission to the garden is $3 adults, $2.50 seniors, $2 students and military, free for children 6 and under. Free 3rd Tues of each month. Tues–Sun 10am–4pm (also on Mon 10am–4pm in summer). ☎ 619/232-2721. www.niwa.org.*

The San Diego Museum of Art.

A work from the Timken Museum of Art.

Palm Canyon.

11 ★ Spreckels Organ Pavilion. Donated to San Diego by brothers John D. and Adolph B. Spreckels, famed contralto Ernestine Schumann-Heink sang at the December 31, 1914, dedication. Free recitals featuring the largest outdoor organ in the world (its vast structure contains 4,518 pipes) are given Sundays at 2pm, with additional concerts and events scheduled during summertime.

12 House of Pacific Relations International Cottages. This cluster of 17 cottages disseminates information about the culture, traditions, and history of more than 30 countries. Special events are presented by one of the nations every Sunday, 2 to 3pm, March through October. ☎ *619/234-0739. Free admission. Sun noon–4pm; 4th Tues of each month 11am–3pm. The adjacent United Nations Building houses an international gift shop where you can buy jewelry, toys, books, and UNICEF greeting cards.* ☎ *619/233-5044. Daily 10am–4:30pm.*

13 ★ San Diego Automotive Museum. Whether you're a gearhead into muscle cars or someone who appreciates the sculptural beauty of fine design, this museum has something for everyone. It features a changing roster of exhibits, as well as a permanent collection of fabulous wheels. 🕘 *30–45 minutes.* ☎ *619/231-2886. www.sdautomuseum.org. Admission $8 adults, $6 seniors and active military, $5 students, $4 children 6–15, free for children under 6. Free 4th Tues of each month. Daily 10am–5pm (last admission 4:30pm).*

14 ★★ kids San Diego Air & Space Museum. This kid-pleaser has more than 60 aircraft on display, providing an overview of aeronautical history, from the days of hot-air

The Spreckels Organ Museum.

The Air & Space Museum.

balloons to the space age. Highlights include the *Apollo 9* Command Module and the new Planetary Theater, which allows visitors to take an interactive journey through the galaxy. *1 hr. 619/234-8291. www.sandiegoairandspace.org. Admission $10 adults, $8 seniors, $5 juniors 6–17, free for active military with ID and children under 6. Free 4th Tues of each month. Sept–May daily 10am–4pm; June–Aug daily 10am–5pm.*

15 San Diego Hall of Champions Sports Museum. From baseball great Ted Williams to skateboard icon Tony Hawk, this slick museum celebrates San Diego's best-ever athletes and the sports they played. There are more than 25 exhibits, rotating art shows, and interactive stations where you can try out your play-by-play skills. *1 hr. 619/234-2544. www.sdhoc.com. Admission $8 adults, $6 seniors 65 and older, students and military, $4 children 7–17, free for children under 7. Free 4th Tues of each month. Daily 10am–4:30pm.*

16 ★ Botanical Building and Lily Pond. This serene park within the park is a great retreat on a hot day. Ferns, orchids, impatiens, begonias, and other plants—about 2,100 tropical and flowering varieties, plus rotating exhibits—are sheltered beneath a domed lath house. The graceful 250-foot- (76m-) long building, part of the 1915 Panama-California Exposition, is one of the world's largest wood lath structures. The lily pond out front attracts sun worshippers, painters, and buskers. *15 min. 619/235-1100. Free admission. Fri–Wed 10am–4pm; closed Thurs and major holidays.*

17 ★★ Museum of Photographic Arts. This is one of the few museums in the United States devoted exclusively to the photographic arts, encompassing not only traditional photography, but also cinema, video, and digital photography. There's also a plush cinema that screens classic films on an ongoing basis and a great bookstore. *30 min–1 hr. 619/238-7559. www.mopa.org. Admission $6 adults, $4 seniors, students and military, free for children under 12 with*

The lily pond at the Botanical Museum.

adult. Free 2nd Tues of each month. Tues–Sun 10am–5pm (Thurs until 9pm).

18 ★ kids San Diego Model Railroad Museum. Kids and train buffs will love the six scale-model railroads depicting Southern California's transportation history and terrain with an astounding attention to miniature details. *30 min. Located in the Casa de Balboa, below the Museum of Photographic Arts. 619/696-0199. www.sdmrm.com. Admission $6 adults, $5 seniors, $3 student, $2.50 military; free for children under 15. Free 1st Tues of each month. Tues–Fri 11am–4pm; Sat–Sun 11am–5pm.*

19 ★★ kids Reuben H. Fleet Science Center. A must-see for kids of any age, this tantalizing collection of interactive exhibits and rides is designed to stimulate the imagination and teach scientific principles. There is also an IMAX theater, which is used for planetarium shows the first Wednesday of each month at 7pm. *At least 1 hr. 619/238-1233. www.rhfleet.org. Fleet Experience admission includes an IMAX film and exhibit galleries: $12 adults, $10 seniors and children*

The Spanish Village Art Center.

The Museum of Natural History.

3–12 (exhibit gallery can be purchased individually); planetarium show: $8.50 adults, $7 seniors and kids 3–12. Free 1st Tues of each month (exhibit galleries only). Hours vary but always daily 9:30am–5pm; later closing times possible.

20 kids San Diego Natural History Museum. Founded in 1874, SDNHM is the oldest scientific institution in Southern California and focuses on the flora, fauna, and mineralogy of the region, including Mexico. The museum also presents special exhibitions, leads free nature hikes, and has a full schedule of classes, lectures, and overnight expeditions for both families and adults. *At least 1 hr. 619/232-3821. www.sdnhm.org. Admission $11 adults, $9 seniors, $7 students, youth age 13–17 and active-duty military, $6 children 3–12, free for children under 3. Two films in the museum's giant-screen theater are included with admission. Free 1st Tues of each month. Daily 10am–5pm.*

21 ★ Spanish Village Art Center. Nearly 40 artists are at work here, creating jewelry, paintings, and sculptures in tile-roofed studios

Passport to Balboa Park

If you plan to visit more than three of the park's museums, buy the Passport to Balboa Park—it allows entrance to 13 major museums (the rest are always free) and is valid for 1 week. It's $35 for adults, $19 for children 3 to 12. If you plan to spend a day at the zoo and return for the museums another day, buy the Deluxe Passport**,** which provides one ticket to the zoo (including guided bus tour and Skyfari aerial tram ride) and 7 days' admission to the 13 museums for $59 adults, $33 children. The passports can be purchased at any participating museum, at the visitor center, or online at www.balboapark.org.

around a charming courtyard. There are restrooms here, too. 🕘 ***30 min.*** ☎ ***619/233-9050. www.spanishvillageart.com. Daily 11am–4pm.***

22 kids **San Diego Miniature Railroad and Carousel.** The open-air railroad takes a 3-minute journey through a grove of eucalyptus trees, while the carousel, built in 1910, is one of the last to still offer a ring grab. ***Zoo Dr., next to San Diego Zoo entrance. Railroad ☎ 619/231-1515, ext. 4219; daily in summer 11am–6:30pm; 11am–4:30pm weekends and holidays only Sept–May. Carousel ☎ 619/460-9000; in summer Mon–Sat 11am–5:30pm, Sun 11am–6pm; 11am–4:30pm weekends and holidays only Sept–May. www.balboapark.org. Admission $2 Railroad, $1.75 Carousel, free for children under 1.***

23 ★★ **Gardens.** Cross Park Blvd. via a pedestrian overpass and you'll find, to your left, a **Desert Garden** for cacti and other plants at home in an arid landscape; and to your right, the **Inez Grant Parker Memorial Rose Gardens,** home to 2,400 roses. The World Rose Society voted the latter as one of the top 16 rose gardens in the world—blooms peak March through May (but there are almost always some flowers visible, except in January and February when they are pruned). 🕘 ***20 min.***

Balboa Park's Desert Garden.

San Diego with Kids

Activities abound for kids from toddlers to teens in San Diego. From its renowned theme parks and zoo, to its kid-friendly museums (where unsuspecting young minds just might learn a thing or two), San Diego more than lives up to its reputation as an optimal family vacation destination. Best of all, these places won't bore the adults in tow either. **START: Bus 7 or 7A/B to the San Diego Zoo in Balboa Park.**

Meerkats at the San Diego Zoo.

1 ★★★ San Diego Zoo. San Diego's world-famous zoo appeals to children of all ages, and the double-decker bus tours bring all the animals into easy view of even the smallest visitors. There's a Children's Zoo where kids can feed and pet the animals, as well as a popular show featuring trained sea lions. *See p 17, bullet 1.*

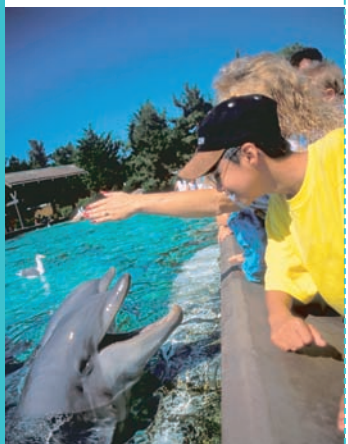
2 Corvette Diner. Travel back in time to the rockin' 1950s at this theme diner, where the jukebox is loud, the gum-snapping waitresses slide into your booth to take your order, and the decor is neon and vintage Corvette to the highest power. ***3946 Fifth Ave. (between Washington St. and University Ave.). ☎ 619/542-1001. www.cohnrestaurants.com. $–$$.***

3 ★★ SeaWorld San Diego. Crowd-pleasing shows and rides highlight this marine-life theme park, made politically correct with a nominally informative atmosphere. The 20-minute shows—starring orcas, otters, dolphins, household pets, and (in summer) human acrobats—run several times throughout the day. Several successive 4-ton (3,629kg) killer whales have functioned as the park's mascot, Shamu, who performs in a 7-million gallon pool with see-through walls. SeaWorld's real strength, though, are the simulated marine environments, including Wild Arctic (with beluga whales, walruses, and polar bears), Manatee Rescue, the Shark Encounter, and—everyone's favorite—the Penguin Encounter. ***At least 4 hr. 500 SeaWorld Dr. ☎ 800/257-4268 or 619/226-3901. www.seaworld.com. Admission $56 adults, $46 children 3–9, free for children under 3. Hours vary seasonally, but always at least daily 10am–5pm; most weekends and during summer 9am–11pm. Parking $10. Bus: 8 or 9.***

Koala bears at the San Diego Zoo.

4 ★★★ San Diego Wild Animal Park. Originally a breeding facility for the San Diego Zoo, the 1,800-acre (728-hectare) Wild Animal Park now holds 3,500 animals representing some 430 different species. Many of the animals roam freely in vast enclosures, allowing giraffes to interact with antelopes, much as they would in Africa. Although the San Diego Zoo may be more famous, it's the Wild Animal Park that many visitors celebrate as their favorite. The Roar & Snore and Beastly Bedtime programs, which are held year-round (except Dec. and Jan.) on most Fridays and Saturdays—with extended dates in summer—let you camp out next to the animal compound (reservations required). ***At least 4 hr. 15500 San Pasqual Valley Rd. 760/747-8702. www.wildanimalpark.org. Admission $29 adults, $26 seniors 60 and over, $18 children 3–11, free for children under 3 and military in uniform. Daily 9am–4pm (grounds close at 5pm); extended hours during summer and Festival of Lights (2 weekends in Dec). Parking $8. Bus: 386 (Mon–Sat). The park is 34 miles (55km) north of downtown San Diego in a rural setting, making a car almost a necessity.***

Dolphins at Sea World.



5 ★ LEGOLAND California. This theme park in Carlsbad, 40 minutes north of downtown San Diego, offers a full day of entertainment for families. There are more than 50 rides, shows, and attractions, including hands-on interactive displays; a life-size menagerie of tigers, giraffes, and other animals; and scale models of international landmarks (the Eiffel Tower, Sydney Opera House, and so on), all constructed of LEGO bricks. The park is geared toward children ages 2 to 12, and there's just enough of a thrill-ride component that preteens will be amused. Most teenagers, however, will find LEGOLAND a bit of a snooze. ***4 hr. 1 Legoland Dr. 877/534-6526 or 760/918-5346.***

Admission Discounts

San Diego's three main animal attractions offer combo tickets that can save you some cash. If you plan to visit both the zoo and Wild Animal Park, a two-park ticket (the "Best Value" zoo package, plus Wild Animal Park admission) is $59 for adults, $39 for children 3 to 11 (for a $62/$40 value). You get one visit to each attraction, to be used within 5 days of purchase. Or throw in SeaWorld within the same 5 days, and the combo works out to $107 for adults, $77 children ages 3 to 9 (a $118/$86 value).

Other value options include the **San Diego Passport** ($79 for adults, $45 for children 3–11), which includes zoo admission, an Old Town Trolley city tour, Hornblower bay cruises, and more; passports are sold at the attractions themselves. **City Pass** (☎ 707/256-0490, www.citypass.com) covers the zoo or Wild Animal Park, plus SeaWorld, Disneyland Resorts, and Universal Studios in Los Angeles; passes are $235 for adults, and $189 for kids age 3 to 9 (a savings of more than 30%), valid for 14 days. The **Go San Diego Card** (☎ 800/887-9103; www.gosandiegocard.com) offers unlimited general admission to more than 25 attractions, including the zoo and LEGOLAND, as well as deals on shopping, dining, and day trips to Mexico and other locales. One-day packages start at $55 for adults and $45 for children (ages 3–12).

www.legoland.com. $57 adults, $44 seniors and children 3–12, free to children under 3. July–Aug daily 10am–8pm; June daily 10am–5 or 6pm; off-season Thurs–Mon 10am–5 or 6pm. Closed Tues–Wed Sept–May, but open daily during Christmas and Easter vacation periods. Parking $10. From San Diego, you'll need a car for this one.

6 ★ **Reuben H. Fleet Science Center.** With its hands-on exhibits, motion simulator rides, and an

A giraffe at the Wild Animal Park.

The Birch Aquarium at Scripps.

IMAX theater, this science funhouse draws kids like magnets. *See p 26, bullet* 19.

7 ★★ Birch Aquarium at Scripps. This beautiful facility is both an aquarium and a museum, operated as the interpretive arm of the world-famous Scripps Institution of Oceanography. The aquarium affords close-up views of the Pacific Northwest, the California coast, Mexico's Sea of Cortés, and the tropical seas, all presented in more than 60 marine-life tanks; the giant kelp forest is particularly impressive. The outdoor demonstration tide pool shows visitors marine coastal life and amazing coastal views. *90 min. 2300 Expedition Way. 858/534-3474. www.aquarium.ucsd.edu. Admission $11 adults, $9 seniors, $8 college students with ID, $7.50 children 3–17, free for children under 3. Daily 9am–5pm. Free parking. Bus: 30.*

8 ★★ Whale watching. The easiest (and cheapest) way to observe the migration of the Pacific gray whales every mid-December to mid-March is to head to Cabrillo National Monument (*see p 13, bullet* 1), where you'll find a glassed-in observatory and educational whale exhibits. Better yet, head to sea—there are a variety of options, including sailboats, large ships with lots of amenities, and barebones kayaking. *Classic Sailing Adventures, based at Shelter Island (800/659-0141 or 619/224-0800; www.classicsailingadventures.com,) offers two trips per day (8:30am and 1pm); each lasts 4 hours and carries a maximum of six passengers. Cruises are $75 per person (minimum 2 passengers), including beverages and snacks. OEX Dive & Kayak Centers (858/454-6195; www.oexcalifornia.com) leads guided kayak tours in search of passing whales. It's about a 1-mile (1.6km) paddle that departs daily at noon from La Jolla Shores. $60 for single kayak, $110 for double. Embarcadero-based companies that offer engine-driven expeditions include Hornblower Cruises (888/467-6256 or 619/686-8715; www.hornblower.com) and San Diego Harbor Excursions (800/442-7847 or 619/234-4111; www.sdhe.com). Trips are 3 or 3½ hours, and fares run $27–$35 for adults, with discounts for kids.*

9 ★ San Diego Model Railroad Museum. This 27,000-square-foot (2,508 sq. m) space has six scale-model railroad dioramas, along with interactive multimedia displays, to fire the imaginations of train lovers, young and old alike. *See p 26, bullet* 18.

10 ★★ Chula Vista Nature Center. Overshadowed by SeaWorld and the zoo, this wonderful, interactive nature center highlights the plants and animals native to San Diego Bay and the surrounding wetlands, featuring exhibits of stingrays and small sharks in kid-level open tanks. The center, about 15 minutes south of downtown, recently unveiled Turtle Lagoon, San Diego's only habitat for endangered green sea turtles. ***90 min. 1000 Gunpowder Point Dr. 619/409-5900. www.chulavistanaturecenter.org. $6 adults, $5 seniors and students, $4 youth 12–17, $3 children 4–11, free for children 3 and under. Tues–Sun 10am–5pm. The (free) parking lot is located away from the center; a shuttle bus ferries guests between the two points every 10 to 15 minutes (last shuttle at 4pm). Bus: 932. Trolley: Blue Line to Bayfront/E St. (request shuttle at trolley info center).***

11 Children's Museum/Museo de los Niños. This $25 million, state-of-the-art facility—designed by the city's most acclaimed architect—is scheduled to open in May 2008. The downtown space will feature cultural and educational programs, including hands-on art projects, storytelling, music, and visual and performing arts. The museum will engage visitors of all ages, from toddlers to parents. ***200 W. Island Ave. (at Front St.). 619/233-8792. www.sdchildrensmuseum.org. Bus: 11 or 992. Trolley: Orange Line to Convention Center.***

12 Belmont Park. This seaside amusement park in Mission Beach first opened in 1925 as a means to lure people to the then-scarcely populated coastal areas. There are plenty of carnival-style rides, but the star attractions are the Giant Dipper roller coaster and the Plunge, a huge indoor pool. Both are Roaring '20s originals. Recent years have seen the addition of the Wavehouse, which features unique wave machines that produce rides for both novice and advanced surfers and bodyboarders. It's a blast to watch the pros in action. ***2 hr. 3146 Mission Blvd. (at W. Mission Bay Dr.). 858/488-1549. www.belmontpark.com. Rides are $2–$6 each; unlimited-ride wristbands are $23 (for those over 50 inches/127cm) and $16 (under 50 inches/127cm); wave rides start at $15 per hour, with a one-time registration fee of $10. Daily 11am–7 or 8pm (weekend and summer hours later; closed weekdays Jan and Feb). Bus: 8 or 9.***

The Giant Dipper at Belmont Park.

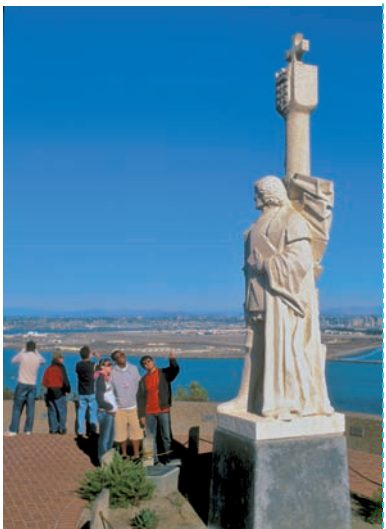
Historic San Diego

1. Cabrillo National Monument
2. Old Town
3. New Orleans Creole Cafe
4. Junípero Serra Museum
5. Mission Basilica San Diego de Alcalá
6. San Diego Aircraft Carrier Museum
7. Maritime Museum
8. William Heath Davis House Museum
9. Museum of San Diego History
10. Marston House

San Diego is where California began. Conquistador Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo first claimed the region in the name of Spain in 1542, but it would be more than 220 years before they sent an occupying force to colonize Alta California. In 1769, soldiers and missionaries, including Father Junípero Serra, set up camp on Presidio Hill overlooking what is now Old Town, making it the first European settlement in California. San Diego would eventually grow into a Wild West boomtown, complete with characters such as famed lawman Wyatt Earp. And even from the earliest days of the 20th century, the United States military coveted San Diego's strategic geographic location, making it the bastion of military heritage it remains today. If you like to bolster your trips with a little history, San Diego is an excellent choice with lots to offer. **START: Bus 28C from Old Town Transit Center.**

1 ★★★ kids Cabrillo National Monument. From the park's location high atop Point Loma, you can overlook San Diego Bay and see the spot where Juan Cabrillo came ashore and met with some very concerned Kumeyaay Indians in 1542. There are also museum installations describing the point's long military history; the cemetery you pass on the way into the park is Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery, a military graveyard since the 1860s. *See p 13, bullet 1.*

The Cabrillo National Monument.



2 ★ Old Town. The flags of Spain, Mexico, and the United States flew in succession over the dusty pueblo of San Diego, a rough and tumble outpost of frontier settlers. History comes alive daily in Old Town State Historic Park (*see p 9, bullet 1*), where you can wander the original town square, lined with reconstructed and original buildings re-creating the era from 1821–1872. The structures now serve as museums, shops, and restaurants. Directly south of the park, along San Diego Ave., you'll find more curio stores and dining options, as well as The Whaley House museum, which attracts attention far and wide for its reputation of being certifiably haunted. A little farther down the street is El Campo Santo, the town's original cemetery. A block east of the Whaley House is Heritage Park, a collection of seven gorgeously restored Victorian buildings, including Southern California's first synagogue. ***Whaley House:*** *30 min. 2476 San Diego Ave. 619/297-7511. www.whaleyhouse.org. Admission before 5pm $6 adults, $5 seniors over 54, $4 children 3–12; admission after 5pm $10 adults, $5 children 3–12. Mon–Tues 10am–5pm; Thurs–Sun 10am–10pm; daily in*

Temple Beth Israel in Old Town.

summer 10am–10pm. ***Heritage Park:*** *20 min. 2450 Heritage Park Row (corner of Juan and Harney sts.). ☎ 877/565-3600 or 858/694-3049. www.sdparks.org. Free admission. Trolley: Blue or Green Line to Old Town.*

3 New Orleans Creole Cafe. When you're seated on the lovely patio of this small cafe, amid the shade trees of the Whaley House complex, you won't mind a little geographical incongruity one bit. You'll happily enjoy your po' boy, gumbo, or muffuletta while the throngs line up elsewhere for mediocre Mexican food. *2476 San Diego Ave. (behind the Whaley House gift shop). ☎ 619/542-1698. neworleanscreolecafe.com. $–$$.*

4 ★ Junípero Serra Museum. Perched on a hill above Old Town, this Spanish Mission–style structure is located where, in 1769, the first mission, first presidio, and first non-native settlement on the west coast of the United States were founded. This is the "Plymouth Rock of the Pacific Coast." The museum's exhibits introduce visitors to the Native American, Spanish, and Mexican people who first called this place home; on display are their belongings, from cannons to cookware. Built in 1929, the stately building offers great views from its 70-foot (21m) tower. Presidio Park, which was established around the museum, is a nice place for a picnic, and has surprisingly extensive walking trails. *1 hr. 2727 Presidio Dr. ☎ 619/297-3258. www.sandiegohistory.org. Admission $5 adults; $4 seniors, students, and military; $2 children 6–17; free for children under 6. Mon–Fri 11am–3pm, Sat–Sun 10am–4:30pm. Park rangers lead a free outdoor tour the 2nd Sunday of every month from 1–2pm. Trolley: Blue or Green Line to Old Town.*

5 Mission Basilica San Diego de Alcalá. This was the first link in a chain of 21 missions founded by Spanish missionary Junípero Serra. In 1774, the mission was moved from Old Town to its present site for agricultural reasons and to separate the indigenous converts from the fortress that included the original building. The mission was sacked by Native Americans a year after it was

Junipero Serra Museum.

Mission San Diego de Alcalá.

built—Father Serra rebuilt the structure using 5- to 7-foot- (1.5m- to 2.1m-) thick adobe walls and clay tile roofs, rendering it harder to burn. In the process, he inspired a bevy of 20th-century California architects. Mass is said daily in this active Catholic parish. 🕘 ***30 min. 10818 San Diego Mission Rd. ☎ 619/281-8449. www.missionsandiego.com. Admission $3 adults, $2 seniors and students, $1 children under 12. Free Sun and for daily Masses. Daily 9am–4:45pm; Mass daily 7am and 5:30pm. Trolley: Green Line to Mission San Diego.***

6 San Diego Aircraft Carrier Museum. The USS *Midway* had a 47-year military history that began 1 week after the Japanese surrender of WWII in 1945. The carrier is now moored at the Embarcadero and has become the world's largest floating naval-aviation museum. A self-guided audio tour takes visitors to several levels of the ship, telling the story of life on board. The highlight is climbing up the superstructure to the bridge and gazing down on the 1,001-foot- (305m-) long flight deck, with various aircraft poised for duty. Check into docent tours, many given by Midway vets, to add insight to your visit. 🕘 ***1 hr. 910 Harbor Dr. (at Navy Pier). ☎ 619/544-9600. www.midway.org. Admission $15 adults; $10 seniors, students, and military; $8 children 6–17, free for children under 6 and military in uniform. Daily 10am–5pm. Trolley: Orange or Blue Line to America Plaza.***

7 ★★ kids Maritime Museum. This flotilla of classic ships is led by the full-rigged merchant vessel *Star of India* (1863), a national historic landmark and the world's oldest ship that still goes to sea. Recent additions include the HMS *Surprise,* a painstakingly accurate reproduction of an 18th-century Royal Navy Frigate, which played a supporting role to Russell Crowe in the film *Master and Commander: Far Side of the World;* and a 300-foot- (91m-)

The sailor statue at the Air Carrier Memorial.

The USS Midway at the Aircraft Carrier Museum.

long Cold War–era B-39 Soviet attack submarine. You can board and tour each vessel. 🕘 ***90 min. 1492 N. Harbor Dr. ☎ 619/234-9153. www.sdmaritime.org. Admission $12 adults; $9 seniors over 62 and active military with ID; $8 children 6–17; free for children under 6. Daily 9am–8pm (till 9pm in summer). Bus: 2, 923, or 992. Trolley: Orange or Blue Line to America Plaza.***

8 **William Heath Davis House Museum.** Shipped by boat to San Diego in 1850 from Portland, Maine, this is the oldest structure in the Gaslamp Quarter. It is a well-preserved example of a prefabricated "saltbox" family home and has remained structurally unchanged for more than 150 years, though it originally stood at another location. A museum on the first and second floors documents life in "New Town," and profiles some of the city's early movers and shakers. The Gaslamp Quarter Historical Foundation also makes its home here, and it has a nice gift store in the basement. 🕘 ***30 min. 410 Island Ave. (at Fourth Ave.). ☎ 619/233-4692. www.gaslampquarter.org. Admission $5; $4 seniors, military, and students. Tues–Sat 10am–6pm; Sun 9am–3pm. The Historical Foundation sponsors walking tours of the neighborhood for $10 ($8 for seniors, students, and military), Saturdays at 11am. Bus: 3, 120, or 992. Trolley: Gaslamp Quarter or Convention Center.***

9 **Museum of San Diego History.** Operated by the San Diego Historical Society, this Balboa Park museum offers permanent and changing exhibits on topics related to the history of the region. Many of the museum's photographs depict Balboa Park and the growth of the city. Books about San Diego's history are available in the gift shop, and the research library downstairs is open Thursday through Saturday. 🕘 ***45 min. 1649 El Prado, in Casa del Balboa. ☎ 619/232-6203. www.sandiegohistory.org. Admission $5 adults, $4 students, seniors and military with ID, $2 children 6–17, free for children 5 and under. Free 2nd Tues of each month. Daily 10am–5pm. Bus: 7 or 7A/B.***

10 ★★ **Marston House.** Noted San Diego architects Irving Gill and William Hebbard designed this Craftsman house in 1905 for George Marston, a local businessman and philanthropist. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places and now managed by the San Diego

Spooks & Splashes

Those who want to take a walk on the supernatural side can stroll through Old Town with **"ghost hunter" Michael Brown** (☎ 619/972-3900; www.oldtownsmosthaunted.com). He leads tours in search of real paranormal activity on Thursday at 7 and 9pm, and Friday and Saturday at 7, 9, and 11pm. $19 adults, $10 children 6 to 12, kids under 5 are free. **Ghostly Tours in History** (☎ 877/220-4844; www.ghostlytoursinhistory.com) leads walking tours through both Old Town (Thurs–Sat, 7 and 8:30pm) and the Gaslamp Quarter (Fri–Sat, 7:15pm). The cost is $10, free for children under 5 (the Gaslamp tour may be inappropriate for small children).

The 90-minute amphibious SEAL tour departs from Seaport Village and motors along the Embarcadero until splashing into San Diego Bay. The narrated tour gives you the maritime and military history of San Diego from the right perspective. Trips are scheduled daily (except Mon in winter), from 10am to 4pm (till 5pm in summer). The cost is $30 for adults and $15 for kids 4 to 12. For information and tickets, call ☎ 619/298-8687, or visit www.historictours.com.

Historical Society, the home's interior is furnished with decor from the Arts and Crafts period, including Roycroft, Stickley, and Limbert pieces, as well as art pottery. 🕘 *45 minutes. 3525 Seventh Ave. (northwest corner of Balboa Park at Balboa Dr. and Upas St.).* ☎ *619/298-3142. www.sandiegohistory.org. Guided tour $5 adults, $4 seniors and students, $2 children 6–17, free for children 5 and under. Fri–Sun 11am–3pm. Bus: 1, 3, or 120.*

Inside the Davis House.

The Best Golf Courses

With its mild year-round climate and nearly 100 courses, half of them public, San Diego County is an ideal destination for golfers. This selection includes acclaimed courses for hardcore aficionados and easily accessed greens for casual duffers. All exploit the full range of San Diego's diverse ecosystems, from the desert to the sea. For a full list of San Diego courses, check out the **San Diego Golf Pages** (www.golfsd.com); **San Diego Golf Reservations** (☎ 866/701-4653 or 858/964-5980; www.sandiegogolf.com) can arrange tee times for you at the premier courses. **START: Bus 101.**

Balboa Park Municipal Golf Course. Surrounded by the beauty of Balboa Park, this 18-hole course features pure greens, fairways sprinkled with eucalyptus leaves, and distracting views of the San Diego skyline. It's convenient and affordable—the perfect choice for visitors who want to work some golf into their vacation, rather than the other way around. The course even rents clubs. ***2600 Golf Course Dr. (off Pershing Dr. or 26th St. in the southeast corner of the park). ☎ 619/239-1660. www.sandiego.gov/golf. Nonresident fees $34 weekdays, $43 weekends; twilight rate $20 weekdays, $26 weekends; cart rental $26, pull carts $5. Reservations are suggested at least a week in advance. Bus: 2, exit at C and 26th sts., head north into the park.***

Coronado Municipal Golf Course. The postcard vistas will test your powers of concentration at this 18-hole, par-72 course overlooking Glorietta Bay, the Coronado Bridge, and the downtown San Diego skyline. There's also a coffee shop, pro shop, and driving range on site. Two-day prior reservations are strongly recommended; call after 7am up to 2 weeks in advance (the $38 advance registration charge is nonrefundable). ***2000 Visalia Row. ☎ 619/435-3121. www.golfcoronado.com. Greens fees $25 to walk, $40 to ride for 18 holes; after 4pm, $13 to walk, $28 to ride. Club rental $45 ($25 twilight rate);***

The Four Seasons Resort Aviara Golf Club.

pull-cart rental $5. Bus: 901, exit at Pomona Ave. and Glorietta Pl.

★★ Four Seasons Resort Aviara Golf Club. In Carlsbad (40 min. north of downtown San Diego), Aviara is uniquely landscaped to incorporate natural elements compatible with the protected Batiquitos Lagoon nearby. The course is 7,007 yards (6,407m) from the championship tees, on rolling hillsides with plenty of bunker and water challenges (casual golfers may be frustrated). There are practice areas for putting, chipping, sand play, and driving, and the pro shop and clubhouse are fully equipped. Golf packages are available for guests of the Four Seasons. *7447 Batiquitos Dr. ☎ 760/603-6900. www.fourseasons.com. Greens fees Mon–Thurs $205 (including mandatory cart); Fri–Sun $225; afternoon rates start at 1:30pm in winter, 3pm in summer ($130 weekday, $135 weekend). Coaster: Carlsbad Village Station; cab it from there.*

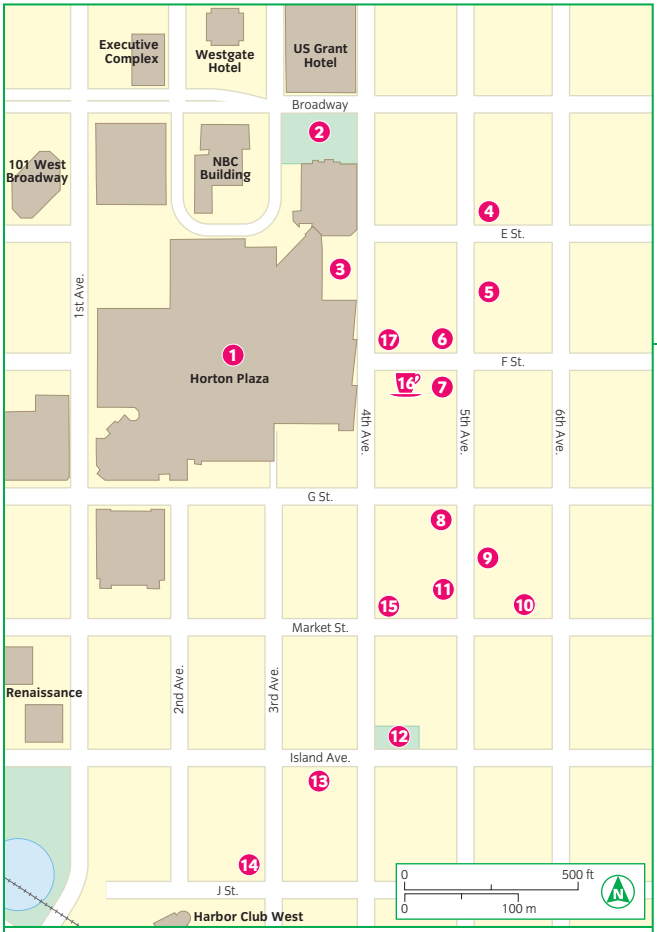
★ Riverwalk Golf Club. Redesigned by Ted Robinson and Ted Robinson, Jr., these links wandering along the Mission Valley floor are the most convenient courses for anyone staying downtown or near the beaches. The course sports a slick, upscale clubhouse; four lakes with waterfalls (in play on 13 of the 27 holes); open, undulating fairways; and trolley tracks on which a bright red trolley speeds through now and then without proving too distracting. *1150 Fashion Valley Rd. ☎ 619/296-4563. www.riverwalkgc.com. Nonresident greens fees, including cart, $95 Mon–Thurs, $120 Fri–Sun; senior, twilight, and bargain evening rates are available. Trolley: Green Line to Fashion Valley Transit Center.*

★★ Torrey Pines Golf Course. These two gorgeous, municipal 18-hole championship courses, on the coast between La Jolla and Del Mar, are only 20 minutes from downtown San Diego. Home of the Buick Invitational Tournament, and the setting for the 2008 U.S. Open, Torrey Pines is second only to Pebble Beach as California's top golf destination. On a bluff overlooking the ocean, the north course is picturesque and has the signature hole (no. 6), but the south course is more challenging, has more sea-facing play, and benefits from a $3.5-million overhaul in 2002. *11480 Torrey Pines Rd. ☎ 619/570-1234 or 800/985-4653 for the pro shop and lessons. www.torreypinesgolfcourse.com or www.sandiego.gov/torreypines. Greens fees on the south course $130 weekdays, $163 weekends; on the north course $80 weekdays, $100 weekends; twilight rates available. Cart rentals $32. Tee times are taken by computer, starting at 7am up to 7 days in advance and by automated telephone only—it takes only 20 to 30 minutes for all tee times for a given day to sell out. Lessons assure you a spot on the course, and the pro shop rents clubs. Bus: 101.*

The Torrey Pines Golf Course.

3 The Best Neighborhood Walks

Gaslamp Quarter



1. Horton Plaza
2. Horton Plaza Park
3. Balboa Theatre
4. Watts-Robinson Building
5. Louis Bank of Commerce
6. Keating Building
7. Spencer-Ogden Building
8. Old City Hall
9. Yuma Building
10. I.O.O.F. Building
11. Backesto Building
12. William Heath Davis House
13. Horton Grand Hotel
14. Chinese Mission
15. Brokers Building
16. Café Lulu
17. Ingle Building

A house in Hillcrest.

A National Historic District covering 16 city blocks, the Gaslamp Quarter features many Victorian-style commercial buildings built between the Civil War and World War I. The father of modern San Diego, Alonzo Horton, purchased 1,000 acres (405 hectares) of muddy, bay-front land for $260 in 1867 and ignited a real estate boom. Horton's "New Town" is today's Gaslamp Quarter, with its proliferation of restaurants, shops, clubs, and hotels making it a mirror image of its 1880s heyday. The Gaslamp Quarter is bound by Fourth Avenue to the west, Sixth Avenue to the east, Broadway to the north, and L Street and the waterfront to the south. It's all very walkable thanks to Horton's business savvy—he wanted to maximize his land sales, so he laid out small blocks (creating more desirable corner lots) with no alleys. **START: Any downtown bus to Horton Plaza, Blue or Orange Line trolley to Civic Center.**

1 ★ Horton Plaza. A colorful conglomeration of shops, eateries, and architecture, Horton Plaza spearheaded the revitalization of downtown when it opened in 1985. The ground floor is home to the Jessop Street Clock, designed by Joseph Jessop, Sr., and built primarily by Claude D. Ledger. It stood outside Jessop's Jewelry Store on Fifth Avenue from 1907 until being moved to Horton Plaza in 1985, and has reportedly only stopped three times in its history: once after being hit by a team of horses, once after an earthquake, and again on the day in 1935 when Ledger died**.** ***Bound by Broadway, First, and Fourth aves., and G St. ☎ 619/238-1596. www.westfield.com/hortonplaza.***

2 Horton Plaza Park. Its centerpiece is a fountain designed by well-known local architect Irving Gill. It was dedicated Oct. 15, 1910, and it was the first successful attempt to combine colored lights with flowing water. On the fountain's base are bronze medallions of San Diego's "founding fathers": Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo, Father Junípero Serra, and Alonzo Horton. ***Corner of Fourth Ave. and Broadway.***

3 ★ Balboa Theatre. Constructed in 1924, the Spanish

Louis Bank.

Renaissance–style building has a distinctive tile dome, striking tile work in the entry, and two 20-foot-(6m-) high ornamental waterfalls inside. In the theater's early days, plays and vaudeville took top billing. After years of sitting dormant and decrepit, the Balboa is slated for an eagerly anticipated 2008 re-opening. ***Southwest corner of Fourth Ave. and E St. www.ccdc.com.***

The Keating Building at night.

4 ★ Watts-Robinson Building. Built in 1913 in a Chicago School of Architecture style, this was one of San Diego's first skyscrapers. It once housed 70 jewelers and is now a boutique hotel (*see Gaslamp Plaza Suites, p 138*). Take a minute to look inside at the marble wainscoting, tile floors, ornate ceiling, and brass ornamentation. ***903 Fifth Ave. (northeast corner of Fifth Ave. and E St.).***

5 ★★ Louis Bank of Commerce. Built in 1888, this proud building was the first in San Diego made of granite. It once housed the city's first ice cream parlor; an oyster bar frequented by Wyatt Earp (of OK Corral shootout fame); and, upstairs, the Golden Poppy Hotel, a brothel run by a fortuneteller, Madame Coara. After a fire in 1904, the original towers of the building were removed, and the iron eagles perched atop them disappeared. A 2002 renovation installed a new pair of eagles, cast at the same English foundry as the originals. ***835 Fifth Ave.***

6 ★ Keating Building. A San Diego landmark dating from 1890, this structure was nicknamed the "marriage building." It was developed by businessman George Keating, who died halfway through construction. His wife, Fannie, finished the project, changing some of the design along the way. She had her husband's name engraved in the top cornice as a tribute to him. Originally heralded as one of the city's most prestigious office buildings, it featured conveniences such as steam heat and a wire-cage elevator.

The Yuma Building.

A sleek boutique hotel, the Keating, is now ensconced here (*see p 140*). ***432 F St. (northwest corner of Fifth Ave. and F St.).***

7 ★ Spencer-Ogden Building. Built in 1874, this is one of the oldest buildings in the Gaslamp Quarter—and it's lucky to still be standing. It escaped major damage after an explosion in 1887 caused by a druggist who was making firecrackers. Other tenants over the years included realtors, an import business, a home-furnishing business, and a "Painless Parker" dental office. Edgar Parker owned a chain of dental offices and legally changed his name to "Painless" in order to avoid claims of false advertising. ***770 Fifth Ave.***

8 ★ Old City Hall. Also dating from 1874, when it was a bank, this Florentine Italianate building features 16-foot (5m) ceilings, 12-foot (4m) windows framed with brick arches, antique columns, and a wrought-iron cage elevator. Notice the windows on each floor are different. (The top two stories were added in 1887, when it became the city's public library.) The entire city government filled this building in 1900, with the police department on the first floor and the council chambers on the fourth. Incredibly, this beauty was completely stuccoed over in the 1950s in an attempt at modernization. It was restored in the 1980s. ***664 Fifth Ave. (southwest corner of Fifth Ave. and G St.).***

9 ★★ Yuma Building. The striking edifice was built in 1888 and was one of the first brick buildings downtown. The brothel at the Yuma was the first to be closed during the infamous 1912 cleanup of the area. In the end, 138 women (and no men) were arrested. They were given a choice: join the Door of Hope charity and reform or take a one-way train ride to Los Angeles. One hundred thirty-six went to LA (many were back within days); one woman was pronounced insane; and the last became San Diego's first telephone operator. ***631 Fifth Ave.***

10 ★ I.O.O.F. Building. Finally finished in 1882 after 9 years of construction, this handsome building served as a joint lodge for the Masons and Odd Fellows. When the cornerstone was finally laid, a parade was held with King Kalakaua of Hawaii as the grand marshal. Gaslamp lore has it that, sitting on the balcony, he caught a cold and died soon after of pneumonia. ***526 Market St.***

11 Backesto Building. Built in 1873, this classical revival and Victorian corner building was expanded to its present size and height over its first 15 years. At the turn of the last century, this part of the Gaslamp was known as the Stingaree, the city's notorious red-light district. Gambling, opium dens, and wild saloons were all part of the mix. ***617 Fifth Ave. (northwest corner of Fifth Ave. and Market St.).***

The Ghirardelli marquee.

Touring the Town

Old Town Trolley Tours (☎ 619/298-8687; www.historictours.com) offer an easy way to get an overview of the city. These vehicles, gussied up like old-time trolleys, do a 30-mile (48km) circular route, and you can hop off at any one of eight stops, explore at leisure, and reboard when you please (the trolleys run every half-hour). Stops include Old Town, the Gaslamp Quarter and downtown area, Coronado, the San Diego Zoo, and Balboa Park. You can begin wherever you want, but you must purchase tickets before boarding (most stops have a ticket kiosk). The tour costs $30 for adults ($15 for kids 4–12, free for children 3 and under) for one complete circuit; the route by itself takes about 2 hours. The trolleys operate daily from 9am to 4pm in winter, and from 9am to 5pm in summer.

City Sightseeing (☎ 619/246-2400; www.citysightseeing-sd.com) conducts narrated tours aboard double-decker buses that continuously loop through the city, offering on-and-off privileges at Old Town, Balboa Park, the Gaslamp Quarter, and five other spots. The full tour is about 2 hours and your ticket is good for 48 hours; tours commence in Old Town, from City Sightseeing's office at 2415 Old Town Ave. Day tours are $25 to $30 for adults, $15 to $20 for children age 4 to 12; night tours are also available ($20 adults, $12 children). Coronado is not included in these tours, but passes for the Coronado ferry are included in some ticket prices.

⓬ ★ **William Heath Davis House.** Downtown's oldest surviving structure, this prefabricated lumber home was shipped to San Diego around Cape Horn from New England in 1850. Alonzo Horton lived in the house in 1867, at its original location at the corner of Market and State streets. Around 1873 it was moved to 11th Avenue and K Street, where it served as the county hospital. It was relocated to this site in 1984 and

Davis House.

completely refurbished. The entire house is now a museum and educational gift shop, and the small park next to it are open to the public (*see p 38, bullet* 8). The Gaslamp Quarter Historical Foundation is also headquartered here. ***410 Island Ave. (at Fourth Ave.). ☎ 619/233-4692. www.gaslampquarter.org.***

13 ★ **Horton Grand Hotel.** Two 1886 hotels were moved here—very gently—from other sites, and then renovated and connected by an atrium; the original Grand Horton is to your left, the Brooklyn Hotel to your right. Now it's all one: the Horton Grand Hotel (*see p 139*). The life-size papier-mâché horse (Sunshine), in the sitting area near reception, stood in front of the Brooklyn Hotel when the ground floor was a saddlery. Wyatt Earp lived upstairs at the Brooklyn for most of his 7 years in San Diego. In the Palace Bar, look for the portrait of Ida Bailey, a local madam whose establishment, the Canary Cottage, once stood nearby. ***311 Island Ave. (southwest corner of Island and Fourth aves.).***

14 **Chinese Mission.** Originally located on First Avenue, this brick building built in 1927 was a place where Chinese immigrants (primarily men) could learn English and find employment. Religious instruction and living quarters were also provided. The building was rescued from demolition and moved to its present location, where it now contains the San Diego Chinese Historical Museum. 🕘 ***20 min. 404 Third Ave. (at J St.). ☎ 619/338-9888. www.sdchm.org. Admission $2 adults, free for children under 12. Tues–Sat 10:30am–4pm; Sun noon–4pm.***

15 **Brokers Building.** Constructed in 1889, this building has 16-foot (5m) wood-beam ceilings and cast-iron columns. In recent years it was converted to artists' lofts, with the ground floor dedicated to the downtown branch of the Hooters chain. Due to the failure of many previous ventures here, as well as a fire and a structural collapse, this was thought of as a "cursed corner." ***402 Market St.***

The Horton Grand.

16 **Café Lulu.** Ostensibly a coffee bar, bohemian Café Lulu also makes a good choice for casual dining (the sidewalk tables are great for people-watching). It also serves later than just about any other place downtown. ***419 F St. (near Fourth Ave.). ☎ 619/238-0114. Cash only. Sun–Thurs 11am–1am; Fri–Sat 11am–3am. $.***

17 ★ **Ingle Building.** It dates from 1906 and now houses the Hard Rock Cafe. The mural on the F Street side of the building depicts a group of deceased rock stars (including Hendrix, Lennon, Joplin, and Elvis, of course) lounging at sidewalk tables. Stained-glass windows from the original Golden Lion Tavern (1907–32) front Fourth Avenue. Inside, the restaurant's stained-glass ceiling was taken from the Elks Club in Stockton, California, and much of the floor is original. ***801 Fourth Ave. (northeast corner of Fourth Ave. and F St.).***

Old Town

San Diego's Mexican and Spanish colonial history is vividly evident in Old Town. A visit here will transport you to an era of village greens and one-room schoolhouses, a time when *vaqueros* and whalers, outlaws and officers, *Californios* and Yankees all mingled—sometimes uneasily—in this then-tiny pueblo. When you stroll through Old Town State Historic Park, California's most popular state park, you don't have to look hard to see traces of the past. The park is just part of the Old Town experience, though. This compact neighborhood is home to other historic sites, as well as lots of shopping and dining, much of it themed to California's frontier past. Admission is free. START: **Blue or Green Line trolley to Old Town Transit Center.**

1 McCoy House. The interpretive center for Old Town State Historic Park (*see p 35, bullet 2*) is a historically accurate replication of the home of James McCoy, San Diego's larger-than-life lawman/legislator who lived on this site until the devastating fire of 1872. With exhibits, artifacts, and visitor information, the house gives a great overview of life in San Diego from 1821 to 1872. ***30 min. Wallace and Calhoun sts. (northwest corner of the park).***

2 Robinson-Rose House. Built in 1853 as a family home, the park visitor center was also once a newspaper and railroad office. Here you'll

A Spanish tile staircase in Old Town.

see a large model of Old Town the way it looked prior to 1872—the year a large fire broke out and destroyed much of the town, initiating the exodus to what is now downtown San Diego. Old Town State Historic Park contains seven original buildings, including the Robinson-Rose House, and replicas of other buildings that once stood here. *15 min.*

3 Plaza del Pasado. Colorful shops and restaurants spill into a flower-filled courtyard where costumed employees and weekend entertainment create an early California atmosphere. A motel in the 1930s, it was designed by acclaimed architect Richard Requa. *2754 Calhoun St. (at Juan St.). ☎ 619/297-3100. www.plazadelpasado.com.*

4 Large Rock Monument. This site commemorates the first U.S. flag flown in Southern California, on July 29, 1846.

5 ★ La Casa de Estudillo. An original adobe building from 1827, this U-shaped house has covered walkways and an open central patio. The patio covering is made of corraza cane, from seeds brought by Father Serra in 1769. The walls are 3- to 5-feet (1- to 1.5m-) thick, holding up the heavy beams and tiles, and insulating against summer heat (in those days, the thicker the walls, the wealthier the family). The furnishings in the "upper-class" house are representative of the 19th century (note the beautiful four-poster beds); the original furniture came from the East Coast and from as far away as Asia. The Estudillo family, which then numbered 12, lived in the house until 1887; today family members still live in San Diego.

6 Colorado House. Built in 1851, it was destroyed by fire in 1872, as were most buildings on this side of the park. Now the home of the Wells Fargo Historical Museum, it originally was San Diego's first two-story hotel. The museum features an original Wells Fargo stagecoach,

The road into Old Town.

Inside the Mason St. School.

numerous displays of the overland-express business, and a video show. Next-door to the Wells Fargo museum, and kitty-corner to La Casa de Estudillo, is the small, redbrick San Diego Court House & City Hall. 🕘 *15 min.*

7 ★ **Mason Street School.** An original building dating from 1865, this school was commissioned by Joshua Bean, uncle of the notorious "hanging judge" Roy Bean; Joshua Bean was also San Diego's first mayor. Inside, you'll notice the boards that make up the walls don't match; they were leftovers from the construction of San Diego homes.

Docents in period costume at the Casa de Estudillo.

Mary Chase Walker, the first teacher, ventured here from the East when she was 38 years old. She enjoyed the larger salary but hated the fleas, mosquitoes, and truancy; after a year, she resigned to marry the president of the school board.

8 **Pedroreña House.** No. 2616 is an original Old Town house built in 1869, with stained glass over the doorway. The shop inside now sells fossils, minerals, and gems. The original owner, Miguel Pedroreña, also owned the house next door.

9 **San Diego Union Printing Office.** The newspaper was first published in 1868. This house arrived in Old Town after being pre-fabricated in Maine in 1851 and shipped around the Horn (it has a distinctly New England–style appearance). Inside you'll see the original hand press used to print the paper, which merged with the *San Diego Tribune* in 1992.

10 **Immaculate Conception Catholic Church.** The cornerstone was laid in 1868, making it the first church built in California that was not part of the Mission system. With the movement of the community to New Town in 1872, it lost its parishioners and wasn't dedicated until 1919. Today the church serves about 300 families in the Old Town area. ***2540 San Diego Ave. (at Twiggs St., which divides the park from the rest of Old Town).*** ☎ ***619/295-4148.***

11 The Living Room. Grab a patio table in the courtyard of this lovely old house and enjoy the people-watching, as well as light meals for breakfast, lunch, or dinner. *2541 San Diego Ave. ☎ 619/325-4445. Sun–Thurs 7am–10pm; Fri–Sat 7am–midnight. $.*

12 Whaley House. The first two-story brick structure in Southern California, it was built from 1856 to 1857. The house is said to be haunted by several ghosts, including that of Yankee Jim Robinson, who was hanged on the site in 1852 for stealing a rowboat. The house is beautifully furnished with period pieces and also features the life mask of Abraham Lincoln. The house's north room served as the county courthouse for a few years, and the courtroom looks now as it did then. *30 min. See p 35, bullet 2.*

13 El Campo Santo. Behind an adobe wall along San Diego Avenue is San Diego's first cemetery, established in 1850. This small plot is the final resting place for, among others, the unfortunate Yankee Jim Robinson (see above).Note the small, round brass markers along the sidewalk and in the street. They mark the still-buried remains of some of San Diego's earliest citizens, unknown souls paved over by the tide of progress. *One block south of the Whaley House on the east side of San Diego Ave.*

14 San Diego Sheriff's Museum. Exhibits trace the evolution of the department and its equipment since San Diego sheriffs first pinned a badge on in 1850. The building itself is a stone's throw from where the city's original cobblestone jail once stood. *20 min. 2384 San Diego Ave. ☎ 619/260-1850. www.sheriffmuseum.org. Free admission. Tues–Sat 10am–4pm.*

15 Heritage Park. The seven buildings in this grassy finger canyon, moved here from other parts of the city, are now used in a variety of ways: as a winsome bed-and-breakfast inn (in the Queen Anne shingle-style Christian House, built in 1889), a doll shop, a teahouse, a lingerie store, and offices. Toward the bottom of the hill is the classic revival Temple Beth Israel, dating from 1889. *2450 Heritage Park Row (corner of Juan and Harney sts.) See p 35, bullet 2.*

Old Town's Heritage Park.

Embarcadero

Upon seeing San Diego Bay in 1602, the second European visitor to the area, Sebastián Vizcaíno, declared it to be "a port which must be the best to be found in all the South Sea." A walk along the waterfront, known as the Embarcadero, may convince you of Vizcaíno's opinion. Whalers, merchants with goods from Asia, and tanners (San Diego is the location of "Hide Park" in Richard Henry Dana's *Two Years Before the Mast*) made San Diego Bay a mid-19th century commercial hub. Up until the 1950s, the world's biggest tuna fleet was here, too. While things may be a little more genteel along the Embarcadero now than they were in 1850—tourism is the main commerce these days—it's still a world-class harbor. **START: Blue or Orange Line trolley to America Plaza.**

1 ★★ kids Maritime Museum. Making up part of the floating museum is the magnificent *Star of India,* built in 1863. It's the world's oldest merchant ship still afloat. The ship, whose billowing sails are a familiar sight along Harbor Drive, once carried cargo to India and immigrants to New Zealand, and braved the Arctic ice in Alaska to work in the salmon industry. Another component of the museum is the 1898 ferry *Berkeley,* which operated between San Francisco and Oakland. In service through 1958, it carried survivors to safety 24 hours a day for 4 days after the 1906 San Francisco earthquake. You can also check out the HMS *Surprise,* which had a star turn in the film *Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World;* a Soviet-era B-39 attack submarine; the *Californian,* a replica of a 19th-century revenue cutter; *Medea,* a 1904 steam yacht; and *Pilot,* which served as San Diego Bay's official pilot boat for 82 years. *See p 37, bullet 7.*

2 ★ County Administration Center. Built in 1936 with funds from the Works Progress Administration, it was dedicated in 1938 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. This Art Deco beauty is one of San Diego's most graceful buildings and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places; the waterfront side is presided over by the dignified 23-foot- (7m-) high granite statue, *Guardian of Water,* created by San Diego's most notable sculptor, Donal Hord. The building is even more impressive from the other side because of the carefully tended gardens; it's worth the effort and extra few minutes to walk around to Pacific Highway for a look. There are restrooms and a cafeteria with great

The Embarcadero marina.

The Maritime Museum.

harbor views inside. ***1600 Pacific Hwy. ☎ 619/531-5197. Mon–Fri 8am–5pm.***

3 **San Diego Cruise Ship Terminal.** Located on the B Street Pier, it has a large nautical clock at the entrance. The flag-decorated terminal's interior is light and airy; you'll also find a snack bar and gift shop.

4 ★ **Harbor Cruises.** Hornblower Cruises and San Diego Harbor Excursions run daily 1- and 2-hour sightseeing cruises around the bay, departing from near the Broadway Pier. There are a variety of vessels from which to choose, everything from antique yachts to three-deck behemoths, and both companies also offer evening dinner/dance cruises, as well as weekend champagne brunch packages. Ticket booths are right along the waterfront. ***Hornblower Cruises ☎ 888/467-6256 or 619/686-8715. www.hornblower.com. Harbor tours $17–$22 adults, $2 off for seniors and military, half price children 4–12. Dinner cruises start at $62; brunch cruise $45. San Diego Harbor Excursions ☎ 800/442-7847 or 619/234-4111. www.sdhe.com. Harbor tours $17–$22 ($2 off for seniors and military, half price for children 4–12). Dinner cruises start at $58 adults, $36 children; brunch cruise $50 adults, $30 children.***

Richard Serra sculptures at the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego.

5 **Coronado Ferry.** It makes hourly trips between San Diego and Coronado. Buy tickets from the Harbor Excursion booth—you can make the round trip in about 50 minutes. ***Sun–Thurs on the hour from 9am–9pm, Fri–Sat till 10pm. Return trips from the Ferry Landing in Coronado to the Broadway Pier are Sun–Thurs every hour on the half-hour from 9:30am–9:30pm, Fri–Sat till 10:30pm. The ride takes 15 minutes. $3 each way.***

6 ★ **Santa Fe Depot.** This mosaic-draped railroad station was built in 1915, and provides one of the city's best examples of Spanish Colonial Revival style. Check out the vaulted ceiling, wooden benches, and walls covered in striking green-and-gold tiles. A scale model of the aircraft carrier USS *Midway* is also on display.

7 ★★★ Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego. What was once the train station's baggage building has been transformed into a dynamic new space for this cutting-edge art museum. Designed by the same architect responsible for the Warhol museum in Pittsburgh and the Picasso museum in Spain, this is one of the city's new cultural flagships, featuring permanent, site-specific work by artists Richard Serra, Jenny Holzer, and others. Changing exhibitions are scheduled at both this space and MCASD's original downtown annex across the street. ***90 min. 1100 and 1001 Kettner Blvd. (between B St. and Broadway). 858/454-3541 or 619/234-1001. www.mcasd.org. Admission $10 adults, $5 seniors and military, free for anyone 25 and under, free admission 3rd Tues of the month, paid ticket good for admission to MCASD La Jolla within 7 days. Sat–Tues 11am–6pm., Thurs–Fri 11am–9pm.***

8 San Diego Aircraft Carrier Museum. Decommissioned in 1991, the USS *Midway* saw 47 years of service, stretching from the end of WWII through to Desert Storm, where it acted as the flagship for that operation. Over the years, more than 225,000 men served aboard the Midway, and it's their stories that are told on this floating naval museum. *See p 37, bullet 6.*

9 U.S. Air Carrier Memorial. Erected in 1993, this compact black granite obelisk honors the nation's carriers and crews. It stands on the site of the old Navy fleet landing, where thousands of servicemen boarded ships over the years.

10 kids Seaport Village. This 14-acre (5.6-hectare) outdoor shopping center has more than 50 stores and restaurants, coupled with an unbeatable bay-front location (the New England–style architecture is completely out of place, but no one seems to mind). Kids love the classic carousel—Charles Looff of Coney Island carved the animals out of poplar in 1895; live entertainment is also often scheduled on weekends. ***849 W. Harbor Dr. (at Kettner Blvd.). 619/235-4014. www.seaportvillage.com. Daily 10am–9pm; restaurants have extended hours.***

11 ★★ Top of the Hyatt. There's no better place in San Diego for a sunset than the Top of the Hyatt, a 40th-floor lounge with sweeping views of the city and harbor. It's located in the eastern tower of the Manchester Grand Hyatt and opens at 3pm daily. ***1 Market Pl. 619/232-1234. $.***

The Pier Café at Seaport Village.

La Jolla

1. Mary, Star of the Sea
2. Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego
3. Children's Pool
4. Ellen Browning Scripps Park
5. La Jolla Cove
6. Sunny Jim Cave
7. Coast Walk
8. La Valencia
9. Athenaeum Music & Arts Library

10 Girard Gourmet

La Jolla is Southern California's Riviera. This seaside community of about 25,000 is home to an inordinate number of wealthy folk who could probably live anywhere. They choose La Jolla for good reason—it's surrounded by the beach, the University of California, San Diego, outstanding restaurants, boutiques, galleries, and some of the world's best medical facilities. The heart of La Jolla is referred to as the Village, roughly delineated by Pearl Street to the south, Prospect Street to the north, Torrey Pines Road to the east, and the rugged coast to the west; this picturesque neighborhood is an ideal place to simply stroll about. It's undetermined whether "La Jolla" (pronounced la-HOY-ya) is misspelled Spanish for "the jewel" or an indigenous word for "cave," but once you see it, you'll likely go with the first definition.

START: Bus route 30 to Silverado St. and Girard Ave.

1 ★ Mary, Star of the Sea. Dedicated in 1937, this beautiful little Mission-style Catholic church was designed by noted San Diego architect Carleton Winslow, Sr. Above the entrance, a striking mosaic re-creates the original fresco painted there by Mexican artist Alfredo Ramos Martínez. An influential art instructor in Mexico, Martínez once taught Rufino Tamayo and David Alfaro Siqueiros. Inside the church, the unique mural above the altar was painted by accomplished Polish artist John De Rosen. It depicts the Virgin Mary on a crescent moon, presiding over a storm-tossed sea. *7669 Girard Ave. ☎ 858/454-2631. www.marystarlajolla.org.*

2 ★★★ Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego. Works produced since 1950 include noteworthy examples of minimalism, light and space work, conceptualism, installation, and site-specific art (the outside sculptures were designed specifically for this location). MCASD also offers lectures, cutting-edge films, and special events on an ongoing basis; the bookstore is a great place for contemporary gifts, and the cafe is a pleasant stop before or after your visit. The museum is on a cliff overlooking the Pacific Ocean, and the views from the galleries are gorgeous. The original building on the site, designed by Irving Gill in 1916, was the residence of Ellen Browning Scripps. *90 min. 700 Prospect St. ☎ 858/454-3541. www.mcasd.org. Admission $10 adults, $5 seniors and military, free 25 and under; free*

An Andy Goldsworthy sculpture at the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego.

3rd Tues of the month; paid ticket good for admission to MCASD downtown within 7 days. Fri–Tues 11am–5pm; Thurs 11am–7pm.

3 ★★ kids Children's Pool. A seawall protects this pocket of sand—originally intended as a calm swimming bay for children, but serving since 1994 as a sanctuary for a colony of harbor seals; on an average day you'll spot dozens lolling in the sun. After much heated debate (and even acts of civil disobedience), people were allowed to swim here again—to the displeasure of many. While it is possible to now go in the water at the Children's Pool, keep in mind those are federally protected *wild* animals, and it is illegal to approach them or harass them in any way. Volunteers, with speed dials set to "lifeguard," keep watch to make sure bathers don't bother the colony.

4 ★★ Ellen Browning Scripps Park. This park and the bluffside walkway that courses through it afford some of California's finest coastal scenery. There's plenty of soft grass where you can toss a Frisbee, have a picnic, or just laze. A series of rustic wooden shelters—popular with seagulls, pigeons, and pedestrians—overlooks La Jolla's shapely curves. The La Jolla Cove Bridge Club—a Works Project Administration structure dating to 1939, where card games still take place—must be one of the world's most view-enhanced card rooms. ***La Jolla Cove Bridge Club. ☎ 858/459-7000. www.lajollacovebridgeclub.com. Games Sun, Wed, Thurs, 11am–3pm.***

5 ★★★ kids La Jolla Cove. These protected calm waters, celebrated as the clearest along the coast, attract snorkelers, scuba divers, and families. The small sandy beach gets a bit cramped during the summer, but the cove's "look but don't touch" policy safeguards the colorful garibaldi, California's state fish, plus other marine life, including abalone, octopus, and lobster. The unique Underwater Park stretches from here to the northern end of Torrey Pines State Reserve and incorporates kelp forests, artificial reefs, two deep canyons, and tidal pools.

The coastwalk at Boomer Beach.

6 kids **Sunny Jim Cave.** The only one of La Jolla's seven sea caves accessible by land, the Sunny Jim Cave is reached by a narrow, often slippery, staircase in the Cave Store. (Sunny Jim was a cartoon character created in 1902 for a cereal advertising campaign, and the cave opening resembles his profile.) Part art gallery, part antiques store, this cliff-top shop also rents snorkel equipment. The passageway with 145 steps was dug through the rock in 1902. ***1325 Cave St. (just off Prospect St.). ☎ 858/459-0746. www.cavestore.com. $4 adults, $3 kids 3–16, free for 2 and under.***

7 ★★ **Coast Walk.** As you face the ocean, continue past the Cave Store. You'll find two paths; one leads to a fabulous wood-platform overlook, the other continues along the bluffs. It's a cool little trail, affording expansive views of the coast. You can exit at a stairway that leads back to Prospect Street (before you come to the white wooden bridge) and circle back into town. If you continue along the trail, it will put you on Torrey Pines Road, an extra 10- to 15-minute walk back to the village.

8 ★★★ **La Valencia.** Within its bougainvillea-draped walls and wrought-iron garden gates, this bastion of gentility resurrects the golden age, when celebrities like Greta Garbo and Charlie Chaplin vacationed here. The blufftop hotel, which looks much like a Mediterranean villa, has been the centerpiece of La Jolla since opening in 1926. There are several lounges and restaurants, some with incredible vistas, which can be enjoyed by non-guests; the Whaling Bar is a classic, old-school haunt (*see p 15, bullet* **5**). ***1132 Prospect St. (at Herschel Ave.). ☎ 800/451-0772 or 858/454-0771. www.lavalencia.com.***

The Athenaeum.

9 ★★ **Athenaeum Music and Arts Library.** One of only 17 nonprofit, membership libraries in the U.S., the Athenaeum hosts art exhibits, jazz and classical concerts, lectures, and special events open to the general public. Visitors can browse through the vast collection of books, music, and more, but only members can take something out. Founded in 1899, the library has expanded into adjacent buildings, including one built by Balboa Park architect William Templeton Johnson. ***1008 Wall St. (at Girard Ave.). ☎ 858/454-5872. www.ljathenaeum.org. Gallery exhibits are free. Tues, Thurs–Sat 10am–5:30pm, Wed 10am–8:30pm.***

10 ★ **Girard Gourmet.** This small bakery and restaurant always draws a crowd with its cookies, quiches, soups, salads, and deli sandwiches (the eight-grain bread is a must). The Belgian proprietor also whips up heartier fare such as lamb stew and duck *à l'orange*. It's the perfect place to gather goods for a picnic. ***7838 Girard Ave. ☎ 858/454-3325. www.girardgourmet.com. Mon–Sat 7am–8pm, Sun 7am–7pm.***

Hillcrest

1. Hillcrest Sign
2. "Fossils Exposed"
3. House of Heirlooms
4. "The Loading Dock"
5. John Wear Memorial
6. Mamá Testa
7. Marston Addition Canyon
8. Marston House
9. Seventh Avenue
10. Wednesday Club
11. Design Center
12. Brass Rail
13. Guild Theater

Centrally located, brimming with popular restaurants and boutiques, Hillcrest is one of San Diego's most vibrant neighborhoods, thanks in no small part to its role as the heart of the local gay and lesbian community. In the 1920s, Hillcrest was the city's first self-contained suburb, making it a desirable address for bankers and businessmen, who built their mansions here. Despite the cachet of proximity to Balboa Park (home of the San Diego Zoo and numerous museums), the area fell into neglect in the 1960s. By the late 1970s, however, legions of preservation-minded residents began restoring Hillcrest, and the community is once again among San Diego's best places to live, work, and play. **START: Bus route 1 or 3 to Fifth and University aves.**

1 Hillcrest Sign. Donated to the community in 1940 by a group of local businesswomen, this Art Deco Hillcrest landmark stretches 21 feet (6.5m) across University Ave., utilizing 240 feet (73m) of pink neon lighting. It went dark for some time, but was taken down and refurbished in 1983. Its relighting in August 1984 was the genesis for Hillcrest's annual street fair. Also of note, on the north side of University, is the neon sign for Jimmy Wong's Golden Dragon, a holdover from 1955 (the restaurant itself is defunct). ***Corner of University and Fifth aves.***

2 "Fossils Exposed." You can go on a bit of a scavenger hunt as you walk the neighborhood, searching for artist Doron Rosenthal's "Fossils Exposed." This 1998 public art project features 150 granite markers randomly embedded into the sidewalk along University Avenue, from First Avenue to Park Boulevard The 4½-inch (11cm) pieces are stylized representations of actual plant and animal fossils that would be found in this region.

3 House of Heirlooms. Built in 1919, this building is now an antiques store but originally served as a surgery annex for St. Joseph's Sanitarium, a hospital opened by the Sisters of Mercy in 1891. Initially located across the street, it was moved to its present site in 1927, several years after the sisters relocated the hospital a few blocks away, where it continues to serve the community under the name Scripps Mercy Hospital. Preservationists have thus far been successful in saving the building from the concerted efforts of developers. ***801 University Ave.*** ☎ ***619/298-0502.***

4 "The Loading Dock." This detailed, trompe l'oeil mural was painted by artist Linda Churchill in 1999. ***Corner of University and 10th aves.***

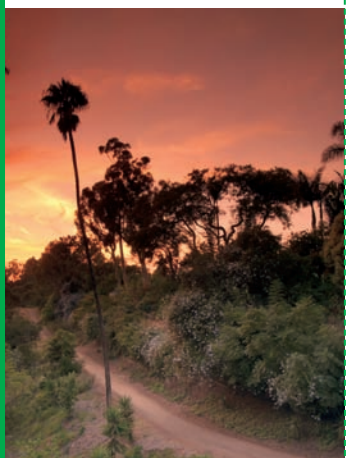
Hillcrest's Art Deco landmark sign.

Marston House.

5 John Wear Memorial. On December 13, 1991, 17-year-old John Wear was accosted and stabbed to death as he walked down the street with two friends because his assailants believed he was gay. This small plaque in the sidewalk in front of The Obelisk bookstore is dedicated to his memory and to the end of all hate crimes. ***1029 University Ave.***

6 ★ Mamá Testa. A nearly overwhelming selection of tacos—soft, rolled, or hard-shell—featuring recipes from all over Mexico. You won't find better tacos anywhere, on either side of the border. ***1417A University Ave. ☎ 619/298-8226. www.mamatestataqueria.com. Mon–Thurs 11:30am–9pm, Fri–Sat 11:30am–10pm, Sun noon–9pm. $–$$.***

Marston Addition Canyon.



7 ★ Marston Addition Canyon. Turn south down Vermont Street from University Avenue and head through part of residential Hillcrest. At the corner of Cypress Street, you'll come to the trailhead for this open-space oasis in the heart of the city. Follow the (usually) dry creek bed toward the sound of the ocean—actually it's the traffic on Highway 163. Take the footbridge over the freeway and head up the paved path into Balboa Park proper. ***20 min. Note: This is a very isolated part of the park. It's not recommended you attempt this after dark. If you are doing this walk in the evening, retrace your steps back to University and Sixth aves., and resume the tour there.***

8 ★★ Marston House. Built in 1905, this gorgeous Craftsman mansion designed by William Hebbard and Irving Gill was the home of one of San Diego's most prominent families. It's now a museum operated by the San Diego Historical Society. It sits on 5 beautifully landscaped acres (2 hectares) and the interior is filled with art and furniture from the Arts and Crafts period. *See p 38, bullet 10.*

9 ★ Seventh Avenue. Architecture buffs should continue on down Seventh Avenue for a concentrated dose of classic design. The 10 other houses on this short, shady street represent more brilliant work from architects Irving Gill and William Hebbard, who created the Marston House, as well as prominent San Diego architects Richard Requa and Frank Mead. All the homes were constructed between 1905 and 1913 in what was known as Crittenden's Addition, which dates back to 1887. *Note:* These are all private residences, so keep to the sidewalk. ***3500 block of Seventh Ave.***

10 Wednesday Club. With the encouragement of architect Irving Gill, Hazel Waterman pursued a career in architecture following the death of her husband, who was the son of California governor Robert Waterman. With her only formal architectural education coming via a correspondence course, Gill hired her on and she helped with three of the houses on Seventh Avenue (see above). She moved on to design this structure in 1911, clearly influenced by Gill. ***Sixth Ave. and Ivy Lane.***

11 Design Center. Fans of contemporary design will appreciate this building by architect Lloyd Ruocco, San Diego's leading postwar modernist. Built in 1949, the structure served as Ruocco's office and as the location of his wife Ilse's interior decorating business and showroom. Fittingly, the space has been used by a succession of architectural and design firms ever since. ***3611 Fifth Ave.***

12 Brass Rail. This is San Diego's oldest gay bar—it's been in the neighborhood since 1963 (although it was originally on the other side of the street, and prior to that, had been downtown). It has been in this spot since 1973. ***3796 Fifth Ave. (at Robinson St.). ☎ 619/298-2233. www.thebrassrailsd.com.***

13 Guild Theater. A series of failed enterprises has occupied what was once a beautiful, Spanish Revival–style movie house that first opened in 1913. Re-named the Guild in the late 1950s, the plug was finally pulled on it in 1997. A tragic event for many locals, the Guild was completely destroyed—what you see is a re-creation of the façade based on the original design. ***3835 Fifth Ave.***

Hillcrest Village.

Coronado

You may be tempted to think of Coronado as an island, but it's actually on a peninsula connected to the mainland by a narrow sand spit, the Silver Strand, traversed by the San Diego-Coronado Bay Bridge. It's a wealthy, self-contained community inhabited by lots of retired Navy brass who live on quiet, tree-lined streets. The northern portion of Coronado is home to the U.S. Naval Air Station, in use since World War I. The rest of the area has a history as an elite playground for snowbirds with plenty of big, beautiful homes. Shops and restaurants line the main street, Orange Avenue, which is reminiscent of a Midwestern town. You'll also find several ritzy resorts, including the landmark Hotel del Coronado, which fronts one of the area's finest beaches. START: **Bus route 901.**

1 Museum of History and Art. This museum offers archival materials about the development of Coronado, as well as tourist information. Exhibits include photographs of the Hotel Del in its infancy, the old ferries, Tent City (a seaside campground for middle-income vacationers from 1900 to 1939), and notable residents and visitors. You'll also learn about the island's military aviation history during World War I and II. *30 min. 1100 Orange Ave. 619/435-7242. www.coronadohistory.org. Suggested donation $4 adults, $3 seniors and military, $2 youths 9–18, free to*

children 8 and under. Mon–Fri 9am–5pm, Sat–Sun 10am–5pm.

2 ★ Lamb's Player Theatre. This acclaimed troupe is one of the few professional theaters in the country with a year-round resident company. They perform a wide range of work, from classics to new musicals. The intimate theater space is in the heart of a Neo-classical structure known as the Spreckels Building. Constructed of reinforced concrete in 1917, it was designed by Harrison Albright, who also created the Organ Pavilion in Balboa Park and the downtown Spreckels Theater at the behest of sugar magnates John and A. B. Spreckels. ***1142 Orange Ave. ☎ 619/437-0600. www.lambsplayers.org.***

3 Wizard of Oz House. Author L. Frank Baum was a frequent visitor to Coronado, where he wrote several of his beloved *Wizard of Oz* books. It's believed he even patterned elements of the Emerald City after the architecture of the Hotel del Coronado. Baum occupied this colonial revival home, known as the Lemeche-Meade House, in the early 1900s. ***1101 Star Park Circle.***

4 ★★ Livingston House. Also known as the Baby Del, this spectacular Queen Anne Revival home was originally located across the bay in San Diego. After 6 months of planning, it was moved to Coronado in 1983 for a cost of $120,000. Built in 1887, 6 months before the Hotel Del, it's believed the house was a training ground for carpenters who would work on the Del, and indeed, might have been designed by the Del's architects, working under a pseudonym. The house is privately owned, but it has its own website. ***1144 Isabella Ave. www.babydel.com.***

5 ★★ Crown Manor. San Diego's all-star architectural team of William Hebbard and Irving Gill created the original designs for this amazing 27-bedroom, oceanfront estate in 1902. Also known as the Richards-Dupee Mansion, it covers 20,000 square feet (1,858 sq. m) and was commissioned by Bartlett Richards, a Nebraska cattle baron. Richards ran afoul of the law for questionable land schemes in his home state and died while in federal custody in 1911. He was elected to the National Cowboy Hall of Fame in 1970. ***1015 Ocean Blvd.***

The Coronado Bridge.

6 ★★★ Hotel del Coronado. San Diego's romantic Hotel del Coronado is an unmistakable landmark with a colorful past. When it opened in 1888, it was among the first buildings rigged with Thomas Edison's new invention, electric light (its electrical power plant supplied the entire city of Coronado until 1922). Author L. Frank Baum, a frequent guest, designed the dining room's original crown-shaped chandeliers. The hotel has also played host to royalty and celebrities—Edward, Prince of Wales (later King Edward VIII, and then Duke of Windsor), caused a sensation with his visit in 1920, and of course, Marilyn

The Coronado Ferry gate.

Monroe, Tony Curtis, and Jack Lemmon famously frolicked here in the film *Some Like It Hot. See p 18, bullet* 4.

7 ★★ **Glorietta Bay Inn.** The Spreckels Mansion is now known as the Glorietta Bay Inn. It was designed by John Spreckels' go-to architect, Harrison Albright, and built in 1908. Spreckels, along with his family and money, abandoned San Francisco after the 1906 earthquake and set up shop in San Diego. He was particularly involved with Coronado, where he became sole owner of the Hotel Del. The Glorietta Bay Inn's 1950s motel-style annexes are lamentable, but the home's glory is still very much in evidence. ***1630 Glorietta Blvd. ☎ 800/283-9383 or 619/435-3101. www.gloriettabayinn.com.***

8 ★ **Graham Memorial Presbyterian Church.** The founding fathers of Coronado were land speculators who purchased the peninsula—mostly inhabited by jackrabbits—for $110,000 in 1885. Their intent from the beginning was to create a resort community. This lovely little church was built by Hotel Del architect James Reid for one of those original investors, Elisha S. Babcock, Jr., in 1890. The church was then dedicated to the memory of Babcock's in-laws, John and Susan Graham. ***975 C Ave.***

9 ★ **Christ Episcopal Church.** James and Watson Reid, the brother architects who created the Hotel Del Coronado, designed this Gothic stone church. Completed in 1894, it features stained glass made by noted California artist, writer, and landscape designer Bruce Porter. The church was commissioned by Capt. Charles Hinde (the magnificent Kirk-Hinde residence, also designed by the Reid brothers, is across the street at 959 C Ave.). ***900 C Ave.***

10 **Mexican Take Out.** This no-frills, walk-in closet–sized space lacks any pretense of charm, which of course is its charm. Mexican Take Out (yes, that's actually the name) offers, well, Mexican take-out—there's no eating on the premises. ***1107 10th St.(at Orange Ave., behind Clayton's Coffee Shop). ☎ 619/437-8811. Mon–Sat 10:30am–9pm, Sun 11:30am–7:30pm. Cash only. $.*** ●

The iconic Coronado Hotel.

4 The Best **Shopping**

Shopping Best Bets

Best **Jewelry That Doubles as Art**
★★★ Taboo Studio *1615½ W. Lewis St. (p 79)*

Best **Clothing That Doubles as Artwork**
★★★ La Jolla Fiber Arts *7644 Girard Ave. (p 77)*

Best **Urban-Fabulous Sneakers**
★★ Mint *525 University Ave. (p 77)*

Best **Vintage Clothing**
★★★ Wear It Again Sam *3823 Fifth Ave. (p 77)*

Best **Gallery for Local Artists**
★★★ David Zapf Gallery *2400 Kettner Blvd., Suite 104 (p 74)*

Best **Place to Find Dr. Seuss on the Loose**
★★ Fingerhut Gallery *1205 Prospect St. (p 75)*

Best **Place to Find Your Bearings**
★★★ Ruderman Antique Maps *1298 Prospect St., Suite 2C (p 74)*

Best **Place for Mid-Century Modernists**
★★★ Boomerang for Modern *2475 Kettner Blvd. (p 78);* and
★★★ Mid-Century *3795 Park Blvd. (p 79)*

Best **Place for Moms-to-Be**
★★ Baby Mabel's *111 S. Cedros Ave. (p 76)*

Best **Denim**
★★ G-Star Raw *470 Fifth Ave. (p 77)*

Best **Pop Culture Gifts**
★ Babette Schwartz *421 University Ave. (p 78)*

Best **Stuff From Out of Africa**
★★ Africa and Beyond *1250 Prospect St. (p 74)*

Best **Place to Buy a Trilobite**
★★ Dinosaur Gallery *1327 Camino del Mar (p 78)*

Best **Candle Store**
★★ Knorr Candle Shop *14906 Villa de la Valle (p 78)*

Best **Vintage Glass**
★★ Vetro *7605 Girard Ave. (p 74)*

Best **Toy Store**
★★ The Lily Pad *3746 Sixth Ave. (p 76)*

Best **Place for Surfer Girls and Boys**
★★ Quiksilver/Roxy *1111 Prospect St. (p 76)*

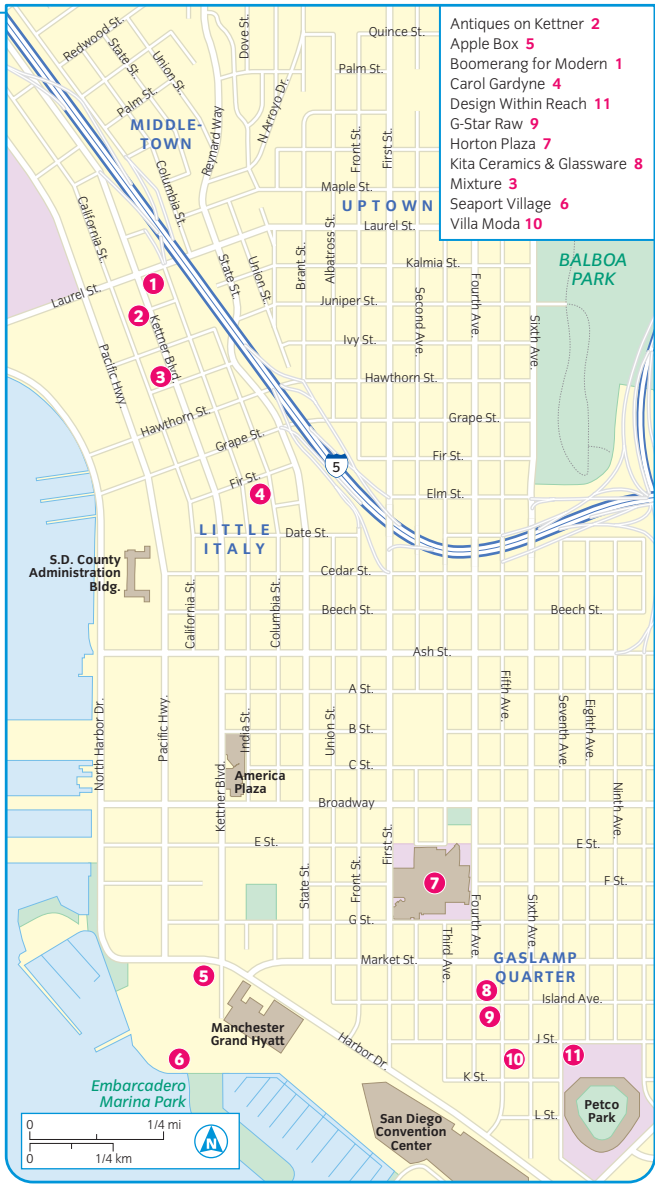
Best **Greek Gods**
★★ Column One *401 University Ave. (p 79)*

Best **New Retro Furnishings**
★★★ Design Within Reach *393 Seventh Ave. (p 79)*

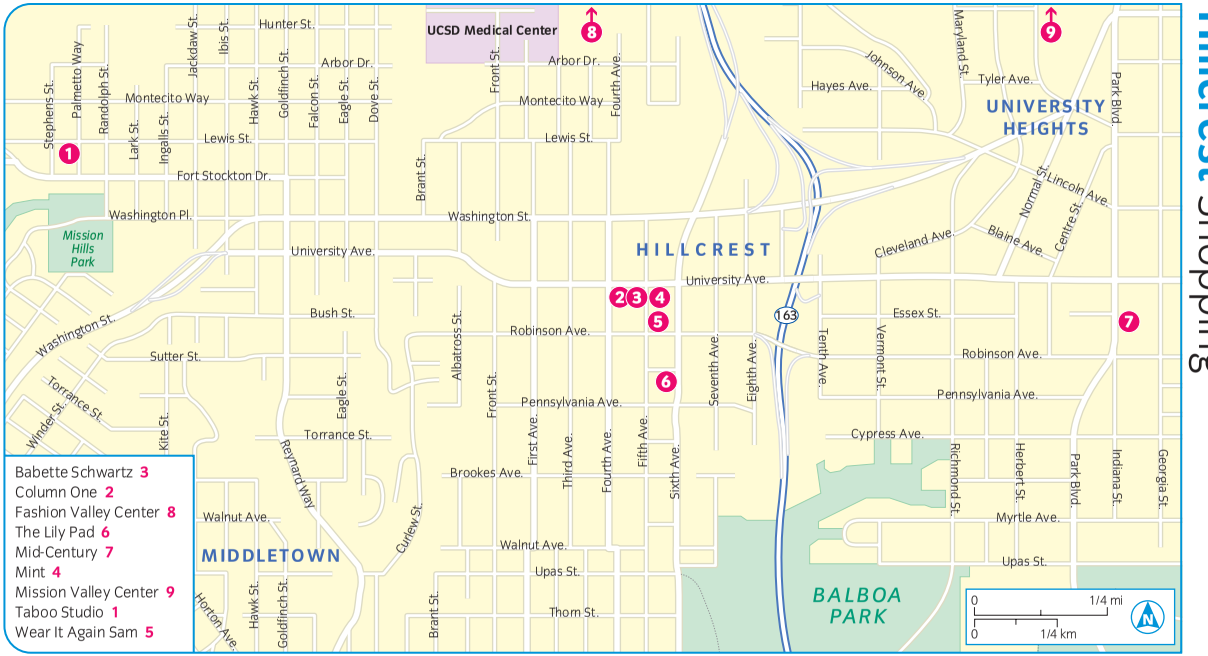
Best **Shopping Center for Fashionistas**
★★ Fashion Valley Center *7007 Friars Rd. (p 80)*

Horton Plaza in the Gaslamp Quarter.

Downtown Shopping



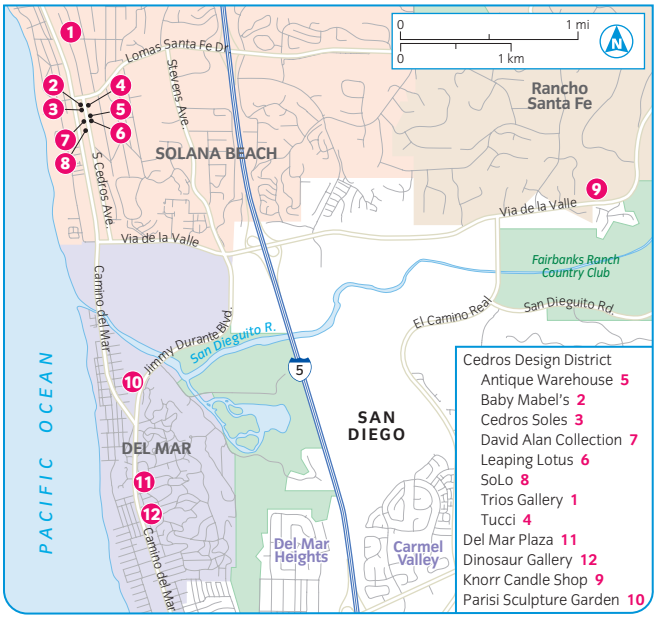
Hillcrest Shopping



La Jolla Shopping

Africa & Beyond **3**
Blondstone **7**
Emilia Castillo **2**
Fingerhut Gallery **5**
Joseph Bellows Gallery **11**
La Jolla Fiber Arts **10**
Laura Gambucci **12**
Morrison Hotel Gallery **4**
My Own Space **8**
Quiksilver/Roxy **6**
Quint Contemporary Art **9**
Ruderman Antique Maps **1**
Vetro **13**

North County Shopping



Shopping A to Z

Antiques & Collectibles

★ **Antiques on Kettner** LITTLE ITALY Nearly 30 individual dealers share this space with a wide selection of antiques and collectibles. *2400 Kettner Blvd., Suite 106 (at W. Kalmia St.). ☎ 619/234-3332. www.antiquesonkettner.com. MC, V. Bus: 83. Map p 71.*

★★★ **Ruderman Antique Maps** LA JOLLA History buffs won't want to miss this place—it sells maps, atlases, and books that date from the 15th through 19th centuries. *1298 Prospect St., Suite 2C (at Ivanhoe Ave.). ☎ 858/551-8500. www.raremaps.com. AE, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 30. Map p 73.*

★★ **Vetro** LA JOLLA A rainbow collection of vintage, hand-blown glass from America, Italy, and Scandinavia. *7605 Girard Ave. (at Torrey Pines Rd.). ☎ 858/729-0045. www.vetrocollections.com. AE, MC, V. Bus: 30. Map p 73.*

Art

★★ **Africa and Beyond** LA JOLLA A collection of contemporary and traditional African sculpture, textiles, jewelry, and furnishings. *1250 Prospect St. (east of Ivanhoe Ave.). ☎ 858/454-9983. www.africaandbeyond.com. AE, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 30. Map p 73.*

★★★ **David Zapf Gallery** LITTLE ITALY One of the city's leading

Vetro in La Jolla.

contemporary galleries, it focuses on local artists. ***2400 Kettner Blvd., Suite 104 (at Kalmia St.). ☎ 619/232-5004. Cash and checks only. Bus: 83. Map p 71, bullet 2.***

★★ Fingerhut Gallery LA JOLLA Theodor Geisel, aka Dr. Seuss, was a longtime resident of La Jolla. This gallery features his work, including plenty of pieces you won't find in a children's book. ***1205 Prospect St. (at Ivanhoe Ave.). ☎ 858/456-9900. www.fingerhutart.com. AE, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 30. Map p 73.***

★★★ Joseph Bellows Gallery LA JOLLA Devotees of photography will want to check out this gallery, which showcases both contemporary and vintage work. ***7661 Girard Ave. (between Kline St. and Torrey Pines Rd.). ☎ 858/456-5620. www.josephbellows.com. AE, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 30. Map p 73.***

★★ Morrison Hotel Gallery LA JOLLA I know, it's only rock 'n' roll photography, but I like it. ***1230 Prospect St. (east of Ivanhoe Ave.). ☎ 858/551-0835. www.morrisonhotelgallery.com. AE, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 30. Map p 73.***

★★★ Parisi Sculpture Garden and Gallery DEL MAR A tranquil hideaway near the Del Mar Fairgrounds where you'll find contemporary, museum-quality pieces. ***2002 Jimmy Durante Blvd., Suite 308 (north of the Camino del Mar junction). ☎ 858/259-0031. www.parisiportfolio.com. Bus: 101. Map p 74.***

★★★ Quint Contemporary Art LA JOLLA A bit off the beaten tourist path, this gallery is worth seeking out for its roster of engaging artists. ***7739 Fay Ave. (entrance on Drury Lane, between Silverado and Kline sts.). ☎ 858/454-3409.***

Scott White Art Gallery.

Surfer and skater gear at Quiksilver/Roxy in La Jolla.

www.quintgallery.com. AE, MC, V. Bus: 30. Map p 73.

★★★ **Scott White Contemporary Art** LITTLE ITALY Another leading light on the local gallery scene, Scott White deals in contemporary painting, sculpture, and photography by artists from around the world. *2400 Kettner Blvd., Suite 238 (at Kalmia St.). ☎ 619/501-5689. www.scottwhiteart.com. AE, MC, V. Bus: 83. Map 71, bullet 2.*

Children: Fashion & Toys

★★ kids **Apple Box** EMBARCADERO This shop specializes in wooden toys. You'll find everything from puzzles and pull toys to rocking horses and toy chests. *Seaport Village, 837 W. Harbor Dr., Suite C (at Kettner Blvd.). ☎ 800/676-7529. www.appleboxtoys.com. AE, DISC, MC, V. Trolley: Orange Line to Seaport Village. Map p 71.*

★★ **Baby Mabel's** SOLANA BEACH Hip fashions and gifts for infants and style-conscious moms-to-be. *111 S. Cedros Ave. (south of Lomas Santa Fe Dr.). ☎ 858/794-0076. www.babymabels.com. AE, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 101. Map p 74.*

★★ kids **The Lily Pad** HILLCREST This small shop features old-fashioned toys that let creativity soar; performances, lectures, and workshops are also on tap. *3746 Sixth Ave. (south of Robinson Ave.). ☎ 619/220-8555. www.thelilypadsd.com. AE, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 3 or 120. Map p 72.*

★★ kids **Quiksilver/Roxy** LA JOLLA Teens and 'tweens will love the surf and skate gear at this conjoined boys/girls shop in the heart of La Jolla village. *1111 Prospect St. (at Herschel Ave.). ☎ 858/459-1267. www.quiksilver.com. AE, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 30. Map p 73.*

Fashion

★★★ **Carol Gardyne** LITTLE ITALY One-of-a-kind and limited edition silk scarves and wall hangings, hand-painted at this studio/boutique. *1840 Columbia St. (at Fir St.). ☎ 619/233-8066. www.carolgardyne.com. AE, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 83. Map p 71.*

★★ **Cedros Soles** SOLANA BEACH Just try to resist the fabulous shoes for women here; there's

Baby Mabel's maternity clothes.

Tucci in Solana Beach.

also a great selection of handbags and other accessories. ***143 S. Cedros Ave., Suite L (south of Lomas Santa Fe Dr.). ☎ 858/794-9911. www.cedrossoles.com. AE, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 101. Map p 74.***

★★ **G-Star Raw** GASLAMP QUARTER This international chain has a cool San Diego boutique, selling Euro-style denim. ***470 Fifth Ave. (between Island Ave. and J St.). ☎ 619/238-7088. www.g-star.com. AE, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 3, 11, 120, or 992. Map p 71.***

★★★ **La Jolla Fiber Arts** LA JOLLA The hand-woven creations here make this store something of an art gallery, as well as a fashion outlet. ***7644 Girard Ave. (between Kline St. and Torrey Pines Rd.). ☎ 858/454-6732. www.lajollafiberarts.com. AE, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 30. Map p 73.***

★★★ **Laura Gambucci** LA JOLLA Bucking the conservative La Jolla trend, this women's boutique features unique, contemporary styles and sexy shoes and handbags. ***7629 Girard Ave., Suite C3 (between Kline St. and Torrey Pines Rd.). ☎ 858/551-0214. AE, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 30. Map p 73.***

★★ **Mint** HILLCREST An excellent selection of urban sneakers and casual footwear for him and her. ***525 University Ave. (between 5th and 6th aves.). ☎ 619/291-6468. AE, MC, V. Bus: 1, 3, 10, 11, or 120. Map p 72.***

★★ **Tucci** SOLANA BEACH This boutique is chic and sophisticated, offering contemporary, international designs in a comfortably mod space. ***130 S. Cedros Ave., Suite 140 (south of Lomas Santa Fe Dr.). ☎ 858/259-8589. www.tucciboutique. AE, MC, V. Bus: 101. Map p 74.***

★★ **Villa Moda** GASLAMP QUARTER The Gaslamp's best spot for women's fashions and a sparkling array of jewelry, as well. ***363 Fifth Ave. (between J and K sts.). ☎ 619/236-9068. www.villamoda.com. AE, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 992. Trolley: Orange Line to Gaslamp Quarter. Map p 71.***

★★★ **Wear It Again Sam** HILLCREST This classy vintage clothing store sells high-quality goods from the 1920s through the '50s. ***3823 Fifth Ave. (between University and Robinson aves.). ☎ 619/299-0185. www.wearitagainsamvintage.com. AE, MC, V. Bus: 1, 3, 10, 11, or 120. Map p 72.***

Villa Moda in the Gaslamp Quarter.

Gifts

★ **Babette Schwartz** HILLCREST Camp meets kitsch at this fun-loving gift store stocked with novelties, cards, and T-shirts. ***421 University Ave. (between 4th and 5th aves.). ☎ 619/220-7048. www.babette.com. MC, V. Bus: 1, 3, 10, 11, or 120. Map p 72.***

★★ kids **Dinosaur Gallery** DEL MAR Own a piece of (pre)history—fossils, gems and minerals, and amber jewelry. Models, puzzles, and more for the kids, too. ***1327 Camino Del Mar (between 13th and 14th sts.). ☎ 858/794-4855. AE, MC, V. Bus: 101. Map p 74.***

★★ **Kita Ceramics & Glassware** GASLAMP QUARTER *Objets d'art* from Italy, Japan, and San Diego, including Murano glass jewelry and lighting, pottery, and home accessories. ***517 Fourth Ave., Suite 101 (at Island Ave.). ☎ 619/239-2600. www.kitaceramicsglass.com. AE, MC, V. Bus: 992. Map p 71.***

★★ **Knorr Candle Shop** DEL MAR This family-run business has been making beeswax candles here since 1928; it's one of the largest candle stores in the country. ***14906 Via de la Valle (east of El Camino Real). ☎ 858/755-2051. www.knorrcandleshop.com. AE, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 308. Map p 74.***

Design Within Reach.

Boomerang for Modern in Little Italy.

Home Decor

★★★ **Boomerang for Modern** LITTLE ITALY Sleek vintage modern furniture and accessories by Herman Miller, Vitra, Eames, and Noguchi. ***2475 Kettner Blvd. (at Laurel St.). ☎ 619/239-2040. www.boomerangformodern.com. AE, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 83. Map p 71.***

★★★ **Cedros Design District** SOLANA BEACH More than two-dozen chic and eclectic shops. Highlights include **Antique Warehouse** (212 S. Cedros Ave.; ☎ 858/755-5156; DISC, MC, V); **David Alan Collection** (241 S. Cedros Ave.; ☎ 858/481-8044; www.thedavidalancollection.com; MC, V); **Leaping Lotus** (240 S. Cedros Ave.; ☎ 858/720-8283; www.leapinglotus.com; AE, MC, V); **SoLo,** (309 S. Cedros Ave.; ☎ 858/794-9016; www.solocedros.com; AE, DISC, MC, V); and **Trios Gallery** (404 N. Cedros Ave.; ☎ 858/793-6040; www.triosgallery.com; AE, DISC, MC, V). ***Primarily the***

100 and 200 blocks of S. Cedros Ave. (south of Lomas Santa Fe Dr.). www.cedrosdesigndistrict.com. Bus: 101. Map p 74.

★★ **Column One** HILLCREST Classical and contemporary statuary and fountains for the home and garden. *401 University Ave., Suite C. (at 4th Ave.).* ☎ *619/299-9074. MC, V. Bus: 1, 3, 10, 11, or 120. Map p 72.*

★★★ **Design Within Reach** EAST VILLAGE The source for official reproductions of classic furnishings and accessories by companies such as Herman Miller, Knoll, and Vitra. *393 Seventh Ave. (at J St.).* ☎ *619/744-9900. www.dwr.com. AE, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 992. Trolley: Orange Line to Gaslamp Quarter. Map p 71.*

★★★ **Mid-Century** HILLCREST Cool pottery, light fixtures, cocktail accessories, furniture, and more from the 1940s, '50s, and '60s. *3795 Park Blvd.* ☎ *619/295-4832. AE, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 7. Map p 72.*

★★ **Mixture** LITTLE ITALY This old brick warehouse has been beautifully transformed into a repository of modern design and decor. *2210 Kettner Blvd. (at Ivy St.).* ☎ *619/239-4788. www.mixturedesigns.com. AE, MC, V. Bus: 83. Map p 71.*

★★ kids **My Own Space** LA JOLLA Hello Kitty meets mid-century modernism at this whimsical furniture and accessories boutique. *7840 Girard Ave. (between Silverado and Wall sts.).* ☎ *858/459-0099. www.mosmyownspace.com. MC, V. Bus: 30. Map p 73.*

Jewelry

★★ **Blondstone** LA JOLLA Creative jewelry designs, including one-of-a-kind rings, pendants, earrings, and bracelets incorporating seashells and tumbled sea-glass "mermaid tears." *925 Prospect St. (at Drury Lane).* ☎ *858/456.1994. www.blondstone.com. AE, MC, V. Bus: 30. Map p 73.*

★★ **Emilia Castillo** LA JOLLA From her home studio in Taxco, Mexico, Emilia Castillo produces fantastic silver creations, including necklaces, cuffs, belt buckles, and tableware. *1273 Prospect St. (east of Ivanhoe Ave.).* ☎ *858/557-9600. www.emiliacastillojewelry.com. AE, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 30. Map p 73.*

★★★ **Taboo Studio** MISSION HILLS The jewelry here is more than just simple ornamentation, these pieces are works of art created by nationally and internationally known jewelry artists. *1615½ W. Lewis St. (between Stephens St. and Palmetto Way).* ☎ *619/692-0099. www.taboostudio.com. AE, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 83. Map p 72.*

Shopping Centers

★★★ **Del Mar Plaza** DEL MAR With its ocean-view terraces, fountains, destination restaurants, and open-air wine bar, this might be the nicest mall you've ever seen. There are more than 30 stores. *1555*

My Own Space in La Jolla.

Camino Del Mar (at 15th St.). ☎ 858/792-1555. www.delmarplaza.com. Bus: 101. Map p 74.

★★ **Fashion Valley Center** MISSION VALLEY This upscale shopping center features Nordstrom, Neiman Marcus, and Saks Fifth Avenue department stores, as well as more than 200 specialty shops and an 18-screen movie theater. *7007 Friars Rd. (between Hwy. 163 and Fashion Valley Rd.). ☎ 619/688-9113. www.simon.com. Bus: 6, 14, 20, 25, 41, 120, or 928. Trolley: Blue or Green Line to Fashion Valley. Map p 72.*

★★ **Horton Plaza** GASLAMP QUARTER This colorful shopping center has more than 180 specialty shops, a performing arts venue, a 14-screen cinema, two major department stores, and a variety of restaurants and short-order eateries. *324 Horton Plaza (bounded by Broadway, 1st and 4th aves., and G St.). ☎ 619/238-1596. www.westfield.com/hortonplaza. Bus: 2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 15, 20, 30, 50, 120, 150, 210, 901, 923, 929, or 992. Trolley: Blue or Orange Line to Civic Center. Map p 71.*

Mission Valley Center MISSION VALLEY This old-fashioned outdoor mall has budget-minded offerings such as Nordstrom Rack outlet store and Target; there's also a 20-screen movie theater and 150 other stores and places to eat. *1640 Camino del Rio N. (alongside I-8 at Mission Center Rd.). ☎ 619/296-6375. www.westfield.com/missionvalley. Bus: 6 or 14. Trolley: Blue or Green Line to Mission Valley Center. Map p 72.*

★ kids **Seaport Village** EMBARCADERO This 14-acre (5.5-hectare) bayfront outdoor mall provides an idyllic setting that visitors love. Many of the more than 50 shops are of the Southern California cutesy variety, but the atmosphere is pleasant, and there are a few gems. *849 W. Harbor Dr. (at Kettner Blvd.). ☎ 619/235-4014. www.seaportvillage.com. Trolley: Orange Line to Seaport Village. Map p 71.*

★ **Westfield UTC** LA JOLLA This outdoor shopping complex has a shady, landscaped plaza and more than 180 stores, including Nordstrom and Macy's. It's also home to a year-round ice-skating rink. *4545 La Jolla Village Dr. (at Genesee Ave.). ☎ 858/546-8858. www.westfield.com/utc. Bus: 30, 31, 41, 48, 49, 50, 89, 105, 101, 310, 921, or 960.* ●

Seaport Village outdoor mall.

5 The Best of **San Diego Outdoors**

The Best **Beaches**

- Black's Beach **7**
- Burger Lounge **12**
- Children's Pool **10**
- Coronado Beach **17**
- Del Mar Beach **5**
- Imperial Beach **18**
- La Jolla Cove **9**
- La Jolla Shores **8**
- Mission Bay Park **15**
- Mission Beach **14**
- North County Beaches
  - Boneyards Beach **3**
  - Moonlight Beach **2**
  - Oceanside **1**
  - Swami's Beach **4**
- Ocean Beach **16**
- Pacific Beach **13**
- Torrey Pines Beach **6**
- Windansea Beach **11**

A game of volleyball at DelMar Beach.

San Diego County is blessed with 70 miles (113km) of sandy coastline and more than 30 individual beaches. Even in winter and spring, when water temperatures drop into the 50s, the beaches are great places to walk, jog, and surf. In summer, when the beaches teem with locals and visitors alike, bikinis bust out, pecs are bared, and a spring-break atmosphere threatens to break loose.

★★★ **Black's Beach.** Located at the base of steep, 300-foot- (91m-) high cliffs, this 2-mile- (3km-) long beach is out of the way and not easy to reach, but it draws scores with its secluded beauty and good swimming and surfing conditions—the graceful spectacle of paragliders launching from the cliffs above adds to the show. This is the area's unofficial nude beach, though technically nude sunbathing is illegal. Citations are rarely issued—lifeguards will either ignore it or just ask you to cover up (they will write tickets if you disregard their request). There are no facilities here. ***Bus: 101 to the Torrey Pines Gliderport; hike down the trail. You can also walk to Black's from beaches south (La Jolla Shores) or north (Torrey Pines).***

Take a Break

Burger Lounge. A fast-food joint—La Jolla-style. This sleek and modern burger spot has plenty of panache—it's casual but fashionable, serving grass-fed, organic beef burgers, as well as hand-cut fries and salads. Milkshakes, wine, and beer are also on the short menu. ***1101 Wall St. (at Herschel Ave.). 858/456-0196. Daily 11am–9pm, with later closing on Fri–Sat. www.burgerlounge.com. $.***

★★ kids **Children's Pool.** Think clothing-optional Black's Beach is the city's most controversial sun-sea-sand situation? Think again—the Children's Pool is currently home to the biggest man-vs.-beast struggle since *Moby*

Sea lions loll on the beach at the Children's Pool.

Del Mar Beach.

Dick. A seawall shields this pocket of sand, originally intended as a calm swimming bay for children, but since 1994, when a rock outcrop off the shore was designated as a protected mammal reserve, the beach has been cordoned off for the resident harbor seal population. Swimming has been reinstated here—under the watchful eye of seal-loving volunteers—but most people just come to observe the colony. ***See p 60, bullet 3.*** ***Bus: 30 to Girard Ave. and Silverado St.***

Walk 2 blocks down Girard Ave., cross Prospect St. to Ocean Lane.

★★ kids **Coronado Beach.** Lovely, wide, and sparkling, this beach is conducive to strolling and lingering, especially in the late afternoon. At the north end, you can watch fighter jets flying in formation from the Naval Air Station, while just south is the pretty section fronting Ocean Boulevard and the Hotel del Coronado. Waves are gentle here, so the beach draws many Coronado families—and their dogs, which are allowed off-leash at the most northwesterly end. South of the Hotel Del, the beach becomes the beautiful, often deserted Silver Strand. The islands visible from here, Los Coronados, are 18 miles away and belong to Mexico. ***Bus: 901 or 904 to the Hotel Del Coronado.***

★★ kids **Del Mar Beach.** The Del Mar Thoroughbred Club's slogan, as famously sung by DMTC founder Bing Crosby, is "where turf meets the surf." This town beach represents the "surf" portion of that phrase. It's a long stretch of sand backed by grassy cliffs and a playground area. This area is not

Del Mar Beach.

La Jolla Shores.

heavily trafficked, and there are several restaurants where you can dine right alongside the beach. Del Mar is about 15 miles (24km) from downtown San Diego. ***Bus: 101.***

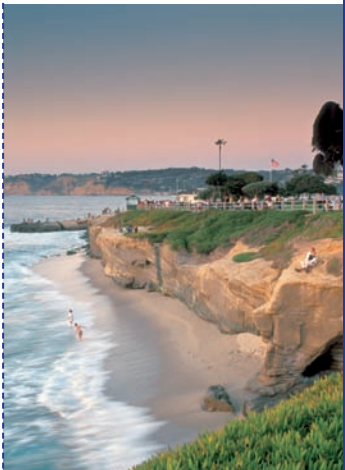
★ **Imperial Beach.** A half-hour south of downtown San Diego by car or trolley, and only a few minutes from the Mexican border, Imperial Beach is popular with surfers and local youth, who can be somewhat territorial about "their" sands in summer. The beach has 3 miles (5km) of surf breaks plus a guarded "swimmers only" stretch; check with lifeguards before getting wet, though, since sewage runoff from nearby Mexico can sometimes foul the water. I.B. also plays host to the annual U.S. Open Sandcastle Competition in late July—the best reason to come here—with world-class sand creations ranging from nautical scenes to dinosaurs. ***Trolley: Blue Line to Palm Ave., transfer to Bus 933.***

★★★ kids **La Jolla Cove.** The star of postcards for more than a century, the tropical-hued waters of La Jolla Cove represent San Diego at its most picture-perfect. Part of the San Diego–La Jolla Underwater ecological reserve, the Cove is a perfect place to do a little snorkeling. If this small beach gets a little too crowded, classy, grassy Ellen Browning Scripps Park on the bluff above it provides a great alternative. ***See p 60, bullets 4 and 5. Bus: 30. Walking directions same as previous.***

★★ kids **La Jolla Shores.** The wide, flat mile of sand at La Jolla Shores is popular with joggers, swimmers, kayakers, novice scuba divers, and beginning body- and board-surfers, as well as families. Weekend crowds can be enormous, quickly claiming fire rings and occupying both the sand and the metered parking spaces in the lot. There are restrooms, showers, and picnic areas here, as well as palm-lined Kellogg Park across the street. ***Bus: 30 to La Jolla Shores Dr. and Avenida de la Playa. Walk 5 blocks down Avenida de la Playa.***

★ kids **Mission Bay Park.** This 4,600-acre (1,862-hectare) aquatic playground contains 27 miles (43km) of bayfront, picnic areas, children's playgrounds, and paths for biking, in-line skating, and jogging. The bay lends itself to windsurfing, sailing,

La Jolla Cove.



The pier at Imperial Beach.

water-skiing, and fishing. There are dozens of access points; one of the most popular is off I-5 at Clairemont Drive. Also accessed from this spot is Fiesta Island, where the annual softball-cum-beach party spectacle known as the Over the Line Tournament is held to raucous enthusiasm in July; a 4-mile (6.5km) road loops around the island. Vacation Island, in the center of the bay, is home to Paradise Point Resort (***see p 143***) and Ski Beach. Parts of the bay have been subject to closure over the years due to high levels of bacteria, so check for posted warnings. Personally, I'd rather sail on Mission Bay than swim in it. ***Bus: 8 (west Mission Bay), 9 (Vacation Island), or 105 (east Mission Bay). See p 92.***

★ **Mission Beach.** While Mission Bay Park is a body of saltwater surrounded by land and bridges, Mission Beach is actually a beach on the Pacific Ocean, anchored by the Giant Dipper roller coaster and the Belmont Park amusement center. Always popular, the sands and wide cement boardwalk sizzle with activity and great people-watching in summer; at the southern end there's always a volleyball game in play. The long beach and path extend from the jetty north to Belmont Park and Pacific Beach Drive. Parking is often tough, with your best bets being the public lots at Belmont Park or at the south end of West Mission Bay Drive. Busy Mission Boulevard is the centerline of a 2-block-wide isthmus that separates the ocean and Mission Bay; it stretches a mile north to Pacific Beach. ***Bus: 8 to Mission Beach.***

North County Beaches. Those inclined to venture farther north in San Diego County won't be disappointed. Pacific Coast Highway leads to inviting beaches, such as these in Encinitas: peaceful ★★ **Boneyards Beach,** ★★★ **Swami's Beach** for surfing, and ★★ **Moonlight Beach,** popular with families and volleyball buffs. Farthest north is ★★ **Oceanside,** which has one of the West Coast's longest wooden piers, wide sandy beaches, and several popular surfing areas. ***Bus: 101.***

★ **Ocean Beach.** Officially known as Dog Beach, the northern end of Ocean Beach Park is one of only a few in the county where your pooch can roam freely on the sand and frolic with several dozen other people's pets. Surfers generally congregate around the O.B. Pier, mostly in the water but often at the snack shack on the end. Rip currents can be strong here and sometimes discourage swimmers from venturing beyond waist depth (check with the lifeguard stations). Facilities at the beach include restrooms, showers, picnic tables, volleyball courts, and plenty of metered parking lots. ***Bus: 35 or 923 to Newport Ave.***

★ **Pacific Beach.** There's always action here, particularly along Ocean Front Walk, a paved promenade featuring a human parade akin to that at L.A.'s Venice Beach boardwalk. It

runs along Ocean Boulevard (just west of Mission Blvd.) to the pier. Surfing is popular year-round here, in marked sections, and the beach is well staffed with lifeguards. You're on your own to find street parking. Pacific Beach is also the home of Tourmaline Surfing Park, a half-mile (.8km) north of the pier, where the sport's old guard gathers to surf waters where swimmers are prohibited; reach it via Tourmaline Street, off Mission Boulevard. ***Bus 8/9.***

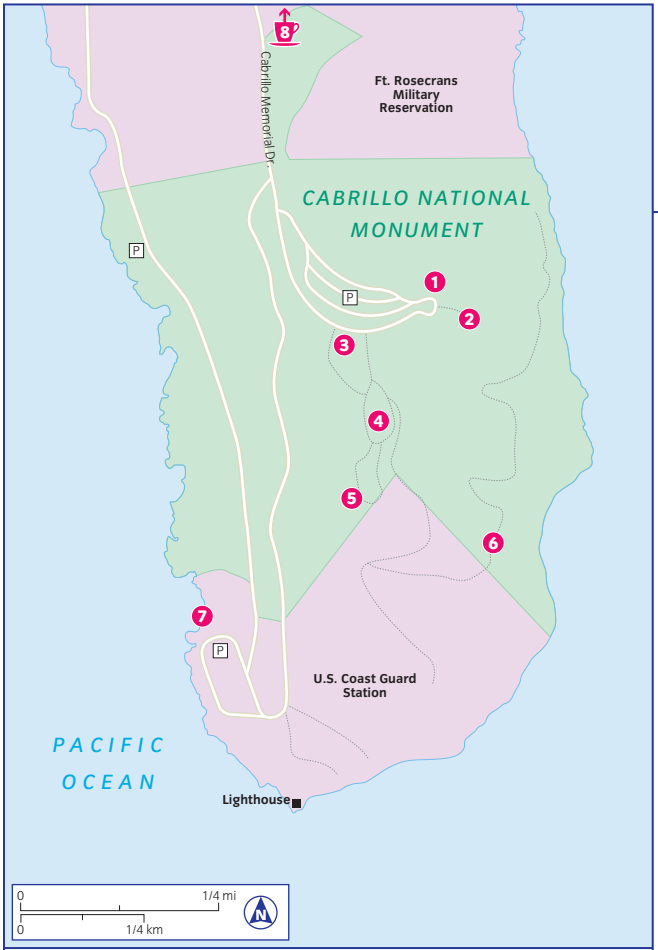
★★★ **Torrey Pines Beach.** At the foot of Torrey Pines State Reserve is this fabulous, underused strand, accessed by a pay parking lot at the entrance to the park. In fact, combining a visit to the park with a day at the beach makes for the quintessential San Diego outdoor experience. It's rarely crowded, though you need to be aware of high tide (when most of the sand gets a bath). In almost any weather, it's a great beach for walking. *Note:* At this and any other bluff-side beach, never sit at the bottom of the cliffs. The hillsides are unstable and could collapse. ***Bus: 101.***

★★ **Windansea Beach.** The fabled locale of Tom Wolfe's *Pump House Gang,* Windansea is legendary to this day among California's surf elite and remains one of San Diego's prettiest strands. This is not a good beach for swimming or diving, so come to surf (no novices, please), watch surfers, or soak in the camaraderie and party atmosphere. Windansea has no facilities, and street parking is first-come, first-served. ***Bus: 30 to Nautilus St.***

Hang gliding at Torrey Pines.

A crab shack on Pacific Beach.

Cabrillo National Monument



1. Visitor Center
2. Cabrillo Statue
3. Military Exhibit
4. Old Point Loma Lighthouse
5. Whale Overlook
6. Bayside Trail
7. Tide pools
8. Point Loma Seafoods

"On this day, Thursday, September 28, 1542, we discovered a port, closed and very good." When Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo led his three galleons into that sheltered harbor nearly 470 years ago, he became the first European to set eyes on what would become the West Coast of the United States. Point Loma, the spit of land that protected Cabrillo and his flotilla from an oncoming storm, is now the site of Cabrillo National Monument, a 160-acre (65-hectare) national park that is rich not only in history, but in natural wonders as well. **START: Bus route 28C.**

1 ★★ Visitor Center. Start your tour here. The visitor center has a bookstore with hundreds of publications on San Diego history, marine life, and the age of exploration in the 16th century. There's also a glassed-in observation area offering stellar panoramas, including views of the actual spot where Cabrillo's party came ashore. The park's auditorium has ongoing screenings of films about Cabrillo's journey, whale migration, and more; a small museum features interactive exhibits about the conquistador and Spain's far-flung empire. Declared a National Monument in 1913 by President Woodrow Wilson, the park is also the site of special events, including a reenactment of Cabrillo's landing every late September and early October, and whale-related festivities every winter. *See p 13, bullet 1.*

Cabrillo statue.

2 ★★ Cabrillo Statue. This 15-foot (4.5m) statue portrays Cabrillo looking steadfast and resolute; he doesn't seem to be much enjoying the 360-degree view from his privileged position. The flesh-and-blood Cabrillo was Portuguese (actual name, João Rodrigues Cabrilho), and as a soldier serving Spain he made a name for himself as a crossbowman during Hernán Cortés' siege of Tenochtitlán (now Mexico City), and also participated in the conquest of Guatemala. His adventuring would come to an end several months after his visit to San Diego, though, when he died from an injury suffered in a skirmish with Chumash Indians on one of Southern California's Channel Islands.

The new Point Loma Lighthouse.

3 Military Exhibit. Point Loma's strategic importance has long been recognized, and the area was established as a military reserve in 1852. Long-range gun batteries bristled from this plateau during both World Wars, and their remnants are still

The Old Point Loma Lighthouse.

here. In a small building once used as an army radio station, there is an exhibit documenting San Diego's 19th Coast Artillery and the war hysteria that gripped the city after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

4 ★★ **Old Point Loma Lighthouse.** This lighthouse had a relatively short lifespan, from 1855 to 1891, its seemingly perfect location compromised by low clouds and fog that often rendered the sweeping beam of light useless. The New Point Loma Lighthouse, situated nearby at sea level, has been in continuous operation since 1891. An interactive exhibit details what life was like for the keepers who lived here in the 19th century, far from the relative comforts of Old Town; the lighthouse itself is filled with period furnishings.

5 ★ **Whale Overlook.** From this sheltered space, you can spot Pacific gray whales as they make their amazing, 10,000-mile (16,093km) journey from the Bering Sea to the warm lagoons of Mexico's Sea of Cortés, and back again, every mid-December through mid-March. These 40-ton (36T), 50-foot (15m) behemoths (with calves in tow on the return trip) are making the longest migration of any mammal. The overlook is outfitted with recorded information and high-powered telescopes; if you don't manage to see a whale, you can still have your picture taken with the scaled-down whale sculpture nearby.

Bayside Trail at sunset.

Federally protected tide pools.

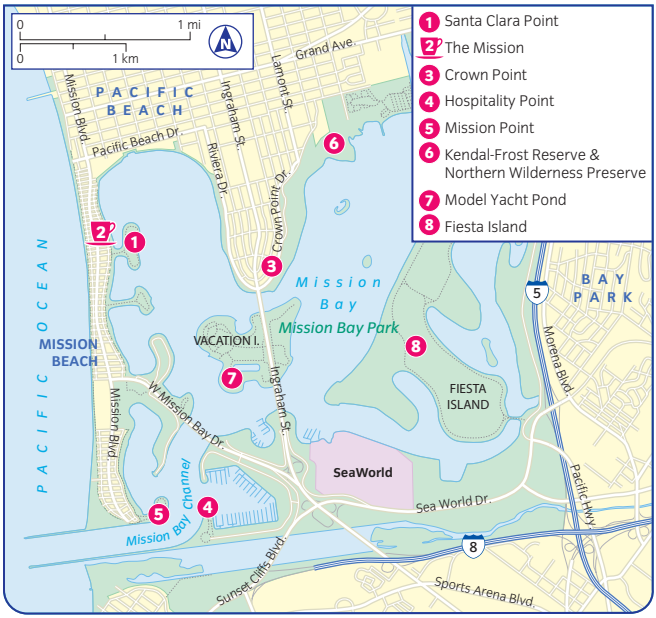
6 ★★★ Bayside Trail. This trail meanders through a coastal sage ecosystem that has all but disappeared from Southern California. The hiking is easy—the trail is only 2.5 miles (4km) roundtrip—but the bay views are spectacular, and there are informative signs posted along the way, identifying and explaining the local flora and fauna. Audio stations providing historical details in six different languages are located at various sites throughout the park. Rangers and docents often present a variety of talks and guided walks.

7 ★★★ kids Tide pools. Cabrillo National Monument has the only federally protected tide pools on the Southern California mainland. This rocky, intertidal ecosystem hosts a variety of sea life, including crabs, starfish, octopi, and anemones. For the best tide pooling, call ahead to find out when low tide is happening, otherwise there may not be much to see—other than the awe-inspiring cliffs and ocean vistas. ☎ *619/557-5450. Exercise caution when exploring tide pools, the rocks are slippery; do not handle the animals; expect to get a little bit wet.*

8 ★★ Point Loma Seafoods. There are no food facilities at Cabrillo National Monument so consider stopping by this San Diego institution before or after visiting the park. It's usually chaos at this deli-style seafood market, especially around lunchtime, but this is the place for fresh-off-the-boat fish. *2805 Emerson St. (at Scott St.).* ☎ *619/223-1109. www.pointlomaseafoods.com. Mon–Sat 9am–6:30pm, Sun 11am–6:30pm. $–$$.*

Rough surf at Cabrillo National Monument.

Mission Bay Park



Originally known as False Bay, this swampy marshland was transformed in the 1940s into Mission Bay Park. This vast outdoor playground encompasses more than 4,200 acres (1,700 hectares)—about half of it water, half of it land—with 27 miles (43km) of shoreline, 19 sandy beaches, grassy parks, wildlife preserves, boat docks and launches (with rental facilities), basketball courts, and an extensive system of pathways. Locals and visitors alike flock to Mission Bay for everything from kite flying to powerboating. START: **Bus 8/9 to Santa Clara Pl.**

1 ★★ kids Santa Clara Point. Recreation centers don't get any cooler than the city-run facility here. Surrounded by the bay waters, it features tennis courts, a softball field, lighted basketball courts, a playground, and weight room. Also located on the point is Mission Bay Sports Center, where you can rent sailboats, catamarans, pedal boats, sailboards, kayaks, wave runners, motorboats, or surfboards. The Sportcenter also offers lessons on how to use the gear. *Recreation Center, 1008 Santa Clara Pl. ☎ 858/581-9928. Mon/Wed/Fri noon–7pm, Tues/Thurs noon–7:30pm, Sat 10am–2pm, closed Sun. Mission Bay Sportcenter, 1010 Santa Clara Pl. ☎ 858/488-1004; www.missionbaysportcenter.com. Daily 9am–7pm. Bus: 8/9.*

Santa Clara Point.

2 ★ **The Mission.** The menu features all-day breakfasts, from traditional pancakes to nouvelle egg dishes to burritos and quesadillas. At lunch, the menu expands for sandwiches, salads, and a few Chino-Latino items like ginger-sesame chicken tacos. ***3795 Mission Blvd. (at San Jose Pl.). ☎ 858/488-9060. www.themission1.signonsandiego.com. Daily 7am–3pm. $.***

3 ★ kids **Crown Point.** You'll find everything you need here for a day of outdoor recreation: large grassy expanses, a white-sand beach, picnic tables, fire rings, barbecue grills, basketball courts, and a boat launch. This swimming area has a lifeguard on duty during the summer months; there are also restrooms and showers here. ***Crown Point Dr. (there are several large parking lots off this street). 4am–2am, but parking lots close at 10pm. As with all city beaches, no glass containers are allowed and alcohol is permitted from noon–8pm only. Bus: 8/9.***

4 ★ **Hospitality Point.** Located at the confluence of the Mission Bay Channel and the San Diego River, this popular spot lacks a beach, but draws visitors with its ocean, bay, and channel views. The walking and bike path will take you alongside the Flood Control Channel, which doubles as the Southern Wildlife Preserve. The preserve provides a landing for more than 100 different species of birds migrating along the Pacific Flyway. Look for herons, egrets, osprey, and the endangered California least tern. ***South end of Quivira Rd. Bus: 8/9 to Dana Landing at W. Mission Bay Dr., then it's a little less than a mile on Quivira Rd. to the point.***

Mission Bay cyclists.

Hospitality Point.

5 ★ kids **Mission Point.** For those who want to combine an ocean and bay experience, Mission Point will do the trick. Situated at the Southern end of Mission Boulevard, this grass-and-sand recreation area is just a short walk from the Mission Beach jetty and the Pacific. Mission Point offers fire rings, picnic tables, a children's playground, and restrooms with showers. This is a swimming area, but there is no lifeguard on duty. ***Bayside Lane. 4am–10pm. Bus 8/9 to Mission Blvd. at W. Mission Bay Dr., then about a mile south.***

6 ★★★ **Kendal-Frost Reserve and Northern Wilderness Preserve.** Due to its fragile nature, most of this 30-acre (12-hectare) area is off-limits to the public. You can get close to it, though, via the pathway that extends north from Crown Point (***see bullet 3***) or by kayak. This saltwater marsh provides sanctuary to a wide variety of birds: avocets to vireos, coots to loons. Two endangered, non-migratory species, the light-footed clapper rail and Belding's savannah sparrow, even live out their entire lives within this small ecosystem. Like many of the estimated 15 million people who flock to Mission Bay Park every year, the clapper rail takes advantage of the bay's calm waters, too—it builds a floating nest among the stands of cordgrass.

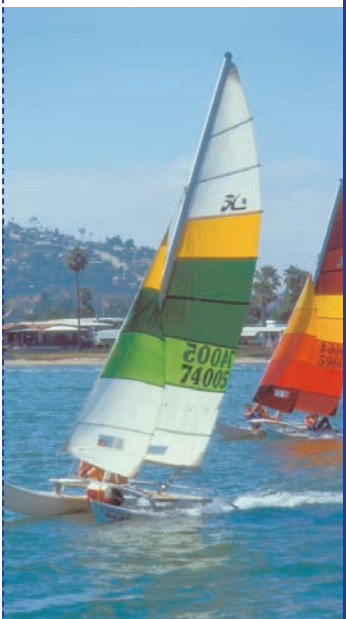
Skaters on the waterfront.

Palms in Mission Bay.

7 ★ kids **Model Yacht Pond.** Sailboats and powerboats are ubiquitous features on Mission Bay, but many people are unaware of the flotilla that plies the waters of the Model Yacht Pond in the middle of Vacation Island. Just about any weekend you can find hobbyists with their sophisticated, radio-controlled craft competing or just having fun. Some of these models are amazingly detailed replicas of historic ships such as Spanish galleons or World War II battleships; others are ferocious little hydroplanes capable of speeds in excess of 60 mph (97kmph). ***Alcohol is prohibited here. Bus: 8/9 to W. Vacation Rd.***

8 **Fiesta Island.** If you've got Fido in tow, this is a great place to let him run leash-free to his heart's content. This is the largest individual piece of Mission Bay Park, a rather barren island at the eastern edge of the bay, often used for events such as the Over-the-Line softball tournament in July and cycling time trials and races. There is a 4-mile (6.5km) road that loops around the island, and fire rings are situated throughout. ***Picnics are not permitted; there are no restrooms. 6am–10pm. Bus: 105 to Sea World Dr.***

Catamarans in De Anza Cove.



The Best **Hiking**

Even from downtown, you don't have to venture far to discover San Diego's wild side. Whether you're looking for solitude along an oak-shaded trail or want to spot an endangered species in its natural habitat, you'll find nearby open-space preserves and parks that will satisfy a range of outdoor enthusiasts. START: **Bus 101 to Torrey Pines State Reserve.**

★★ kids **Chula Vista Nature Center.** This interpretive center set in the Sweetwater Marsh National Wildlife Refuge is just a 15-minute drive from downtown San Diego. There is a 1.5-mile (2.5km) loop trail through coastal wetlands where more than 220 different species of birds have been identified. The trail also features a photo blind and posted information on the flora and fauna. *See p 33, bullet* 10.

★★ **Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve.** Stretching for nearly 7 miles (11km), this 4,000-acre (1,619-hectare) preserve is an oasis amid the suburbia that it surrounds. The area was part of the first Mexican land grant in San Diego, and the historic Santa Maria de los Peñasquitos adobe ranch home (1823) still stands at the east end of the park (tours are Sat at 11am and Sun at 1pm). Along the trail are beautiful stands of oak and sycamore; there's also a waterfall that flows year-round. *12020 Black Mountain Rd.* ☎ *858/484-7504. www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation. Free admission. Daily 8am–sunset. Bus: 210 to Mira Mesa Blvd. and Black Mountain Rd., 1.3 miles (2k) farther north on Black Mountain Rd.*

★★ **Mission Trails Regional Park.** This is one of the nation's largest urban parks, a 5,800-acre (2,347-hectare) spread that includes abundant bird life, two lakes, a picturesque stretch of the San Diego River, the remains of the Old Mission Dam (probably the first irrigation project in the West), and 1,592-foot (485m) Cowles Mountain, the summit of which reveals outstanding views over much of the county. There are trails up to 4 miles (6.5km) in length—including a 1.5-mile (2.5km) interpretive trail—some of which are designated for mountain bike use. *1 Father Junípero Serra Trail.* ☎ *619/668-3275 or 619/668-3281. www.mtrp.org. Free admission. Daily sunrise to sundown (visitor center 9am–5pm). Bus: 115 to*

Hikers in Los Peñasquitos Canyon Reserve.

Into the Wild

Those in search of a wilderness experience will find ample room to roam in 600,00-acre (242,820-hectare) ★★★ **Anza-Borrego Desert State Park,** California's largest state park, less than a 2-hour drive away from downtown San Diego.

The terrain at Anza-Borrego incorporates dry lakebeds, sandstone canyons, granite mountains, palm groves fed by year-round springs, and more than 600 kinds of desert plants. The best time to come is in spring, when thousands of wildflowers burst into bloom, transforming the desert into a brilliant palette of pink, lavender, red, orange, and yellow. Your first stop here should be the architecturally striking **Visitor Center** (☎ 760/767-4205 or 760/767-5311; www.parks.ca.gov). This small museum offers information, maps, and audiovisual presentations; an interpreted loop trail is also on site. The visitor center is open October through May daily from 9am to 5pm, June through September weekends from 9am to 5pm.

Jackson Dr. and Navajo Rd., then 1.4 miles (2.25km) to the West Gate.

★★★ **Torrey Pines State Reserve.** One of San Diego's most treasured spots, this reserve is home to the country's rarest tree, the Torrey pine, which grows only here and on an island off the coast of Santa Barbara. The 1,750-acre (708-hectare) reserve was established in 1921, from a gift by Ellen Browning Scripps, and encompasses dramatic 300-foot- (91m-) high, water-carved limestone bluffs, the beach below them, and a lagoon immediately north. There are six different trails, none longer than 1.3 miles (2km), and the aptly named Beach Trail provides access to the ocean; pick up a trail map at the small visitor center, built in the traditional adobe style of the Hopi Indians. Interpretive nature walks are held weekends and holidays at 10am and 2pm. *Hwy. 101 (between La Jolla and Del Mar). ☎ 858/755-2063. www.torreypine.org. There are no facilities for food or drinks inside the park; you can bring a picnic lunch, but you have to eat it on the beach—food and drink (other than water) are not allowed in the upper portion of the reserve. Admission $6 per car weekday, $8 per car weekend; seniors $5 weekday, $7 weekend. Daily 8am–sunset. Bus: 101.* ●

The Anza-Borrego Desert.

6 The Best **Dining**

Dining Best Bets

Best **Business Lunch**
★ Dobson's Bar & Restaurant $$ *956 Broadway Circle (p 107)*

Best **Mexican Food**
★★★ El Agave Tequileria $$–$$$ *2304 San Diego Ave. (p 107);* and ★★★ Candelas $$$ *416 Third Ave. (p 106)*

Best **Breakfast With a View**
★ Brockton Villa $–$$ *1235 Coast Blvd. (p 106)*

Best **Lunch With a View**
★★★ Bertrand at Mister A's $$$$ *2550 Fifth Ave. (p 105)*

Best **Dinner With a View**
★★★ Georges California Modern $$$$ *1250 Prospect St. (p 109)*

Best **Use of Local Product (Sea)**
★★ Zenbu $$–$$$ *7660 Fay Ave. (p 112)*

Best **Use of Local Product (Land)**
★★★ Market Restaurant + Bar $$$ *3702 Via de la Valle (p 110)*

Best **California Cuisine**
★★★ Blanca $$$$ *437 S. Highway 101 (p 105)*

Best **Modern American Cuisine**
★★★ Jack's La Jolla $$$$ *7863 Girard Ave. (p 109)*

Best **Eclectic Menu**
★★ Parallel 33 $$–$$$ *741 W. Washington St. (p 111)*

Best **Pan-Asian Cuisine**
★★ Red Pearl Kitchen $$–$$$ *440 J St. (p 111)*

Best **Pizza**
★★ Bronx Pizza $–$$ *111 Washington St. (p 106)*

Best **Desserts**
★★★ Extraordinary Desserts $ *2929 Fifth Ave. and 1430 Union St. (p 107)*

Best **Bistro**
★★ Café Chloe $$–$$$ *721 Ninth Ave. (p 106)*

Best **Picnic Fare**
★★ Bread & Cie $ *350 University Ave. (p 105)*

Most **Romantic Dining Room**
★★★ The Marine Room $$$$ *2000 Spindrift Dr. (p 110)*

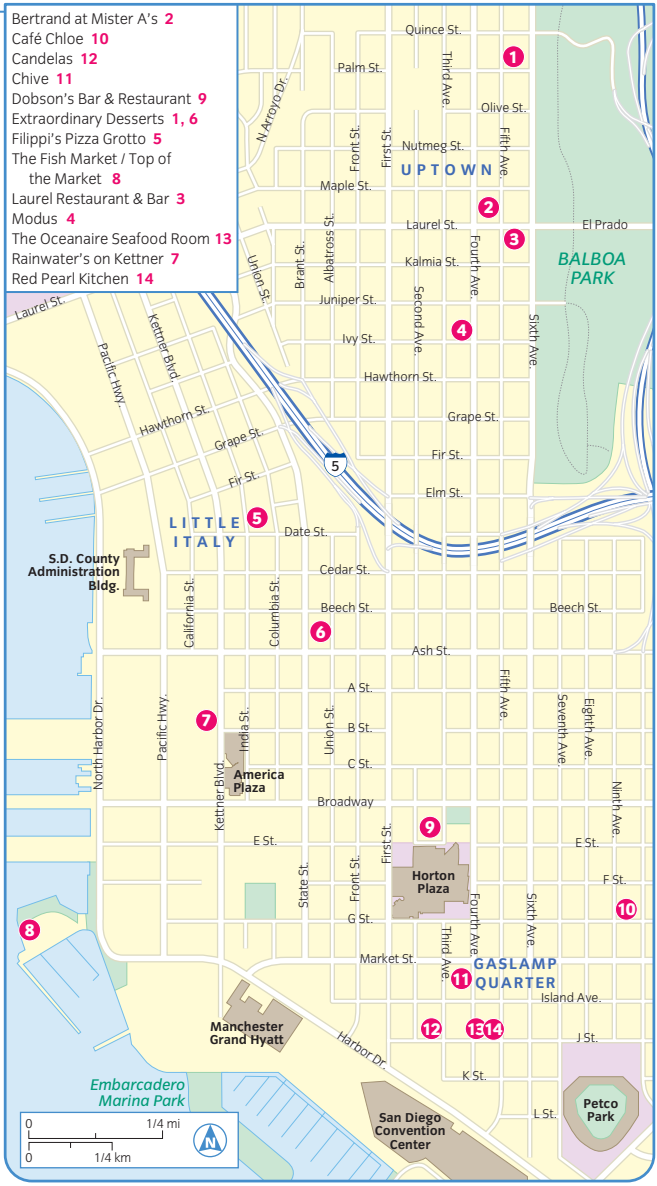
Best **Sushi**
★★★ Sushi Ota $$ *4529 Mission Bay Dr. (p 112)*

Best **Place for Hipster Foodies**
★★ Modus $$–$$$ *2202 Fourth Ave. (p 110)*

Café Pacifica.

Downtown Dining

- Bertrand at Mister A's 2
- Café Chloe 10
- Candelas 12
- Chive 11
- Dobson's Bar & Restaurant 9
- Extraordinary Desserts 1, 6
- Filippi's Pizza Grotto 5
- The Fish Market / Top of the Market 8
- Laurel Restaurant & Bar 3
- Modus 4
- The Oceanaire Seafood Room 13
- Rainwater's on Kettner 7
- Red Pearl Kitchen 14



Hillcrest & Old Town Dining

Berta's Latin American Restaurant 1
Bread & Cie 6
Bronx Pizza 5
Cafe Pacifica 2
El Agave Tequileria 3
Parallel 33 4

Dining **at the Beaches**

La Jolla Dining

Dining A to Z

★★ **Arterra** DEL MAR *CALIFORNIAN* The menu is regularly adapted to meet the schedule of Mother Earth, featuring top products from local farms. ***11966 El Camino Real (next to I-5 in the Marriott Del Mar). ☎ 858/369-6032. Entrees $8–$18 breakfast, $14–$24 lunch, $27–$38 dinner. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Breakfast daily; lunch Mon–Fri; dinner Mon–Sat; bar menu daily. Bus: 89.***

Arterra in Del Mar.

★★ **Baleen** MISSION BAY *SEAFOOD/CALIFORNIAN* This attractive waterfront eatery is located right in the middle of Mission Bay—the perfect place to savor a selection of seafood simply grilled, wood-roasted, or sautéed. ***1404 Vacation Rd. (Paradise Point Resort). ☎ 858/490-6363. Entrees $19–$60. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Dinner daily. Bus: 8/9.***

★ **Berta's Latin American Restaurant** OLD TOWN *LATIN AMERICAN* Faithfully re-creating

Bread & Cie in Hillcrest.

the flavors of Central and South America, Berta's provides welcome relief from the nacho-and-fajita places that dominate Old Town. ***3928 Twiggs St. (at Congress St.). ☎ 619/295-2343. Entrees $7–$10 lunch, $11–$16 dinner. AE, MC, V. Tues–Sun lunch & dinner. Bus: 10, 14, 30, or 150. Trolley: Old Town.***

★★★ **Bertrand at Mister A's** BALBOA PARK *AMERICAN/MEDITERRANEAN* The seasonal menu is modern American with a French/Mediterranean twist. A bar/patio menu gives diners on a budget access to the million-dollar vistas. ***2550 Fifth Ave. (at Laurel St.), Hillcrest. ☎ 619/239-1377. Entrees $15–$27 lunch, $20–$45 dinner. AE, DC, MC, V. Lunch Mon–Fri; dinner daily. Bus: 3 or 120.***

★★★ **Blanca** SOLANA BEACH *CALIFORNIAN/FRENCH* Sleek and sophisticated, this cosmopolitan space may be the best restaurant in San Diego County. Blanca uses only top, seasonal products, preparing creative California cuisine with a modern French touch. ***437 S. Highway 101 (north of Via de la Valle). ☎ 858/792-0072. Entrees $30–$95. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Dinner daily. Bus: 101.***

★★ **Bread & Cie** HILLCREST *LIGHT FARE/MEDITERRANEAN* The traditions of European artisan bread-making are proudly carried on here. You can get a light breakfast or a great sandwich, as well as loaves of specialty breads. ***350 University Ave. (at Fourth St.). ☎ 619/683-9322. Sandwiches and light meals $4–$9. DISC,***

Brockton Villa in La Jolla.

MC, V. Breakfast, lunch & early supper daily. Bus: 1 or 3.

★ **Brockton Villa** LA JOLLA *BREAKFAST/CALIFORNIAN* A restored 1894 beach bungalow, this charming cafe occupies a breathtaking perch overlooking La Jolla Cove. *1235 Coast Blvd. (across from La Jolla Cove). ☎ 858/454-7393. Entrees $7–$12 breakfast, $9–$15 lunch, $15–$30 dinner. AE, DISC, MC, V. Breakfast & lunch daily; dinner Tues–Sun. Bus: 30.*

★★ **Bronx Pizza** HILLCREST *ITALIAN* This tiny pizzeria serves up San Diego's best pies—other than calzones, that's all they make. There's usually a line out the door. *111 Washington St. (at First Ave.). ☎ 619/291-3341. Phone orders accepted for full pies. Pies $12–$18; $2.50 by the slice. Cash only. Lunch & dinner daily. Bus: 3, 10, or 11.*

★★ **Thee Bungalow** OCEAN BEACH *FRENCH* The fanciest restaurant in laid-back Ocean Beach, Thee Bungalow features an excellent wine list and house specialties such as crispy roast duck and dessert soufflés for two. *4996 W. Point Loma Blvd. (at Bacon St.).*

Café Chloe in the East Village.

Candelas in the Gaslamp Quarter.

☎ 619/224-2884. Entrees $20–$37, early bird specials $15–$19. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Dinner daily. Bus: 35 or 923.

★★ **Café Chloe** EAST VILLAGE *FRENCH* The conviviality of this bistro—combined with a short-but-sweet French-inspired menu covering breakfast, lunch, and dinner—makes for a winning dining experience. *721 Ninth Ave. (at G St.). ☎ 619/232-3242. Entrees $8–$13 breakfast, $9–$13 lunch, $15–$28 dinner. AE, MC, V. Lunch & dinner daily; breakfast Tues–Sun. Bus: 3, 5, 11, 210, 901, or 929.*

★★ **Cafe Pacifica** OLD TOWN *CALIFORNIAN/SEAFOOD* This cozy eatery serves upscale, imaginative seafood at decent prices; arrive before 6:30pm and you can take advantage of the early bird special for $26. *2414 San Diego Ave. (at Congress St.). ☎ 619/291-6666. Entrees $14–$34. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Dinner daily. Bus: 10, 30, or 150. Trolley: Old Town.*

★★★ **Candelas** GASLAMP QUARTER *MEXICAN* If you're looking for tacos and burritos, go somewhere else. If you're in the mood for a sophisticated, romantic fine dining

experience, look no further. ***416 Third Ave. (at J St.). ☎ 619/702-4455. Entrees $11–$15 lunch, $22–$35 dinner. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Lunch Mon–Fri; dinner daily. Bus: 3, 11, or 992. Trolley: Convention Center.***

★ **Chez Loma** CORONADO *FRENCH* Tables are scattered throughout this classic Victorian house and on the enclosed garden terrace. Early birds enjoy specially priced meals—$25 for a three-course meal before 6pm. ***1132 Loma (off Orange Ave.), Coronado. ☎ 619/435-0661. Entrees $22–$34. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Dinner Tues–Sun. Bus: 901 or 904.***

★★★ **Chive** GASLAMP QUARTER *CALIFORNIAN* The cuisine is as modern as the decor, taking a global approach with small-plate dishes such as a Moroccan-spiced chicken kebab and Kung Pao–style sweetbreads. ***558 Fourth Ave. (at Market St.). ☎ 619/232-4483. Entrees $10–$36. AE, DISC, MC, V. Dinner daily. Bus: 3, 11, 120, or 992. Trolley: Convention Center.***

★ **The Cottage** LA JOLLA *BREAKFAST/LIGHT FARE* Maybe La Jolla's best breakfast, served at a turn-of-the-20th-century bungalow on a shady corner. The housemade granola is a favorite. ***7702 Fay Ave. (at Kline St.). ☎ 858/454-8409. Entrees $7–$10 breakfast, $8–$12 lunch, $12–$22 dinner. AE, DISC, MC, V. Breakfast & lunch daily; dinner June–Aug Tues–Sat. Bus: 30.***

★ **Dobson's Bar & Restaurant** GASLAMP QUARTER *CALIFORNIAN* By day it buzzes with the energy of movers and shakers; in the evening it segues from happy-hour watering hole to sophisticated pre- and post-theater American bistro. ***956 Broadway Circle (at Broadway). ☎ 619/231-6771. Entrees $10–$18 lunch; $18–$39 dinner. AE, DC, MC, V. Lunch Thurs–Fri; dinner Thurs–Sat; happy hour Mon–Fri. Bus: 7, 929, 992.***

★★★ **El Agave Tequileria** OLD TOWN *MEXICAN* The regional Mexican cuisine and rustic elegance here leave the touristy joints of Old Town far behind. It also boasts more than 850 tequilas and mezcals, and some of the best margaritas in town. ***2304 San Diego Ave. (at Old Town Ave.). ☎ 619/220-0692. Entrees $8–$11 lunch, $16–$32 dinner. AE, MC, V. Lunch & dinner daily. Bus: 10, 30, or 150. Trolley: Old Town.***

★ **Epazote Oceanview Steakhouse** DEL MAR *AMERICAN* The unimpeded sea views here are regal. And the bar whips up a wicked house margarita. ***1555 Camino del Mar (at 15th St.), Del Mar Plaza. ☎ 858/259-9966. Entrees $9–$15 brunch, $11–$24 lunch, $20–$45 dinner. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Lunch & dinner daily; brunch Sun. Bus: 101.***

★★★ **Extraordinary Desserts** HILLCREST *DESSERTS* Dozens of divine creations are available daily; there's also an exclusive line of jams,

Dobson's Bar & Restaurant in the Gaslamp Quarter.

El Agave Tequileria in Old Town.

syrups, spices, and confections for sale. This location also serves panini, salads, and artisan cheeses, as well as wine and beer. ***2929 Fifth Ave. (between Palm and Quince sts.) ☎ 619/294-2132. Desserts $2–$9. MC, V. Breakfast, lunch & dinner daily. Bus: 3. Other location: Little Italy, 1430 Union St. (between Beech and Ash sts.), ☎ 619/ 294-7001. Bus: 11 or 30.***

★ **Filippi's Pizza Grotto** LITTLE ITALY *ITALIAN* Walk through an Italian grocery and deli to get to the dining room, where the menu offers more than 15 pizzas, plus huge portions of spaghetti, lasagna, and other pasta. ***1747 India St. (between Date and Fir sts.). ☎ 619/232-5094. Entrees $6–$13. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Lunch & dinner daily; deli opens daily at 8am. Bus: 83. Trolley: Little Italy. Other location: Pacific Beach, 962 Garnet Ave. (between Cass and Bayard sts.), ☎ 858/483-6222, Bus: 8/9.***

★ **The Fishery** PACIFIC BEACH *SEAFOOD* You're pretty well guaranteed fresh-off-the-boat seafood at this off-the-beaten-track establishment. It's really a wholesale warehouse and retail fish market with a casual restaurant attached. ***5040 Cass St. (at Opal St.). ☎ 858/272-9985. Entrees $8–$21 lunch, $9–$28 dinner. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Lunch & dinner daily. Bus: 8/9.***

★ **The Fish Market/Top of the Market** EMBARCADERO *SEAFOOD/SUSHI* This San Diego institution with enhanced views is always packed. Upstairs, fancy Top of the Market offers sea fare with souped-up presentations. ***750 N. Harbor Dr. ☎ 619/232-3474. Entrees $10–$25 lunch, $13–$32 dinner (Top of the Market main courses $13–$35 lunch, $18–$45 dinner). AE, DC, DISC, MC,***

Extraordinary Desserts in Little Italy.

V. Lunch & dinner daily. Bus: 992. Trolley: Seaport Village. Other location: Del Mar, 640 Via de la Valle (between S. Cedros Ave. and Solana Circle E), ☎ 858/755-2277, Bus: 308.

★★ **Fresh** LA JOLLA *CALIFORNIAN/SEAFOOD* You'll find a menu of small and large plate fare created from top quality products (like Chino Farm veggies and Kobe beef) at modest sums, and retail pricing on wine. *1044 Wall St. (at Hershel Ave.). ☎ 858/551-7575. Entrees $9–$17 lunch, $18–$31 dinner. AE, DISC, MC, V. Lunch & dinner daily. Bus: 30.*

★★★ **Georges California Modern** LA JOLLA *CALIFORNIAN* This place has it all: stunning ocean views, style, impeccable service, and above all, a world-class chef. Those seeking fine food and incomparable views at more modest prices can head upstairs to Georges Ocean Terrace Bistro and Pacific View Bar. *1250 Prospect St. (east of Ivanhoe Ave.). ☎ 858/454-4244. Entrees $26–$42. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Dinner daily.* ***Ocean Terrace Bistro*** *entrees $10–$15 lunch, $14–$22 dinner. Lunch & dinner daily. Bus: 30.*

★ **Gringo's** PACIFIC BEACH *MEXICAN* The menu at this upscale space runs the gamut from the typical fare to regional specialties from Oaxaca, the Yucatan, and Mexico's Pacific Coast. There are also more than 100 tequilas available. *4474 Mission Blvd. (at Garnet Ave.). ☎ 858/490-2877. Entrees $6–$20 lunch, $10–$23 dinner, $7–$11 Sun brunch. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Lunch & dinner daily. Bus: 8/9, 27, or 30.*

★ **Hawthorn's** NORTH PARK *CALIFORNIAN* Set within a magnificently rehabilitated 1928 vaudeville theater just east of Hillcrest, this longtime favorite offers great deals on prix fixe and early-bird meals. *2895 University Ave. (at 29th St.). ☎ 619/544-0940. Entrees $19–$32 dinner. AE, MC, V. Dinner daily; Sun brunch 10am–2pm. Bus: 7 or 7A/B.*

★★ **Island Prime** EMBARCADERO *SEAFOOD* Given the spectacular bay and skyline vistas here, it would be easy to understand if Island Prime didn't even bother to make its food interesting—but the views actually have some competition. *880 Harbor Island Dr. ☎ 619/298-6802. Entrees $11–$25 lunch; $22–$39 dinner. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Lunch & dinner daily. Bus: 923, 992.*

★★★ **Jack's La Jolla** LA JOLLA *AMERICAN* This multistory Epicurean funhouse rises from sidewalk coffee stop to third-floor sushi bar, with a fine dining component and a couple of bars and lounges thrown in for good measure. *7863 Girard Ave. (at Wall St.). ☎ 858/456-8111. Entrees $28–$42. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Dinner Tues–Sun.* **Jack's Grille** *entrees $10–$34. Dinner daily.* **Ocean Room** *entrees $8–$14 lunch, $12–$44 dinner. Lunch & dinner daily.* **Sidewalk Cafe** *Breakfast, lunch & dinner daily.* **Bars and lounges** *daily 5:30pm–2am (Wall St. Bar and sushi bar closed Mon). Bus: 30.*

Island Prime in the Embarcadero.

Laurel Restaurant & Bar in Balboa Park.

★ **Jake's Del Mar** DEL MAR *SEAFOOD/CALIFORNIAN* This seafood-and-view restaurant has a perfect seat next to the sand—the predictable menu can't live up to the panorama, but it's prepared competently. ***1660 Coast Blvd. (at 15th St.). ☎ 858/755-2002. Entrees $9–$18 lunch, $10–$46 dinner. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Lunch Tues–Sat; dinner daily; brunch Sun. Bus: 101.***

★★★ **Laurel Restaurant & Bar** BALBOA PARK *FRENCH/MEDITERRANEAN* Look for game entrees such as elk, boar, and rabbit, as well as a wonderful cassoulet, a main-course vegetable sampler, and a seven-course chef's tasting meal. ***505 Laurel St. (at Fifth Ave.). ☎ 619/239-2222. Entrees $22–$39. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Dinner daily. Bus: 3 or 120.***

★★★ **The Marine Room** LA JOLLA *FRENCH/CALIFORNIAN* This shorefront institution has been San Diego's most celebrated dining room. Executive chef Bernard Guillas sees to it that the food lives up to this room with a view. ***2000 Spindrift Dr. (at Torrey Pines Rd.). ☎ 858/459-7222. Entrees $28–$44. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Dinner daily. Bus: 30.***

★★★ **Market Restaurant + Bar** DEL MAR *CALIFORNIAN* This comfortably elegant restaurant specializes in regional San Diego cuisine, showcasing the best ingredients from the area's top farms, ranches, and seafood providers. The wine list focuses on small and non-traditional wineries. ***3702 Via de la Valle (at El Camino Real). ☎ 858/523-0007. Entrees $22–$40. AE, MC, V. Dinner daily. Bus: 308.***

★★ **Modus** BANKERS HILL *CALIFORNIAN* There's mood lighting, a zigzagging bar, mod fireplace, DJs, and a patio with water-wall feature; there's also modern European bistro cuisine with a California flair, incorporating fresh, local, organic products. ***2202 Fourth Ave. (at Ivy St.). ☎ 619/236-8516. Entrees $24–$32. AE, DISC, MC, V. Dinner daily. Bus: 3, 11, or 120.***

★★★ **Nine-Ten** LA JOLLA *CALIFORNIAN* The seasonal menu at this stylish spot is best enjoyed via small-plate grazing; better yet, turn yourself over to the "Mercy of the Chef," a five-course tasting menu. ***910 Prospect St. (between Fay and Girard). ☎ 858/964-5400. Entrees $6–$16 breakfast, $9–$14 lunch,***

$19–$40 dinner. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Breakfast, lunch & dinner daily. Bus: 30.

★★ The Oceanaire Seafood Room GASLAMP QUARTER *SEAFOOD* Featuring top local products as well as fish brought in daily from around the globe, the menu incorporates elements of Pacific Rim, Italian, classic French, and Asian cuisine. ***400 J St. (at Fourth Ave.). ☎ 619/858-2277. Entrees $15–$50. AE, DISC, MC, V. Dinner daily. Bus: 3, 11, or 992. Trolley: Convention Center.***

★★ Parallel 33 MISSION HILLS *INTERNATIONAL* This very cool restaurant brings together the unique flavors of far-flung locales along the 33rd parallel (which includes San Diego). ***741 W. Washington St. (at Falcon). ☎ 619/260-0033. Entrees $19–$34. AE, DISC, MC, V. Dinner daily. Bus: 3 or 10.***

★★ Rainwater's on Kettner DOWNTOWN *AMERICAN* A longtime favorite for power lunches, this East Coast–style chophouse has a spectacular wine list. ***1202 Kettner Blvd. (at B St., next to the Santa Fe depot). ☎ 619/233-5757. Entrees $10–$18 lunch, $25–$50 dinner. AE, DISC, MC, V. Lunch Mon–Fri; dinner daily. Bus: 83, 901, or 929. Trolley: Santa Fe Depot or American Plaza.***

Modus in Banker's Hill.

★★ Red Pearl Kitchen GASLAMP QUARTER *CHINESE/ASIAN FUSION* This sexy restaurant and bar specializes in dim sum dishes with a contemporary, pan-Asian flair. ***440 J St. (between Fourth and Fifth aves.). ☎ 619/231-1100. Entrees $10–$18. AE, MC, V. Dinner daily. Trolley: Convention Center. Bus: 3, 120, 929, or 992.***

★ Roppongi LA JOLLA *ASIAN FUSION/PACIFIC RIM* The cuisines of Japan, Thailand, China, Vietnam,

Parallel 33 in Mission Hill.

Red Pearl Kitchen in the Gaslamp Quarter.

Korea, and India collide, via a menu of tapas-style portions designed for sharing. ***875 Prospect St. (at Fay Ave.). ☎ 858/551-5252. Entrees $11–$19 lunch, $9–$19 tapas, $22–$37 dinner. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Lunch & dinner daily. Bus: 30.***

★★★ **Sushi Ota** PACIFIC BEACH *SUSHI* Masterful chef-owner Yukito Ota creates San Diego's finest sushi in a nondescript location in a mini-mall. Discerning regulars look for the daily specials posted behind the counter. ***4529 Mission Bay Dr. (at Bunker Hill). ☎ 858/270-5670. Entrees $6–$12 lunch, $9–$20 dinner, sushi $4–$12. AE, MC, V. Lunch Tues–Fri; dinner daily. Bus: 8/9.***

★ **Villa Nueva Bakery Café** CORONADO *BREAKFAST/LIGHT FARE* Locals rave about the "Yacht Club" sandwich, a croissant filled with yellowfin tuna, and the breakfast croissant, topped with scrambled ham and eggs and cheddar cheese. ***956 Orange Ave. (between 9th and 10th sts.). ☎ 619/435-4191. Entrees $5–$8. AE, DISC, MC, V. Breakfast, lunch & dinner daily. Bus: 901 or 904.***

★★ **Zenbu** LA JOLLA *SUSHI/SEAFOOD* You can order something from the sushi bar or maybe an entree such as steak of locally harpooned swordfish. ***7660 Fay Ave. (at Kline St.). ☎ 858/454-4540. Entrees $22–$30. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Dinner daily. Happy hour all night Sun–Tues; Wed–Thurs until 6:30pm. Lounge Thurs–Sat 7pm–1am. Bus: 30.*** ●

7 The Best **Nightlife**

Nightlife Best Bets

Best **Bar With a View**
★★★ Top of the Hyatt *1 Market Pl. (p 119)*

Best **Concert Venue (Indoor)**
★★★ Belly Up Tavern *143 S. Cedros Ave. (p 120)*

Best **Concert Venue (Outdoor)**
★★ Humphrey's *2241 Shelter Island Dr. (p 121)*

Best **Rock 'n' Roll Club**
★★ The Casbah *2501 Kettner Blvd. (p 120)*

Best **After-Hours Dance Club**
★★★ Club Montage *2028 Hancock St. (p 120)*

Best **Dive Bar**
★★ Nunu's *3537 Fifth Ave. (p 118)*

Best **Wine Bar**
★★★ 3rd Corner *2265 Bacon St. (p 122)*

Best **Megaclub**
★★★ Stingaree *454 Sixth Ave. (p 122)*

Best **Shoes-Optional Bar**
★★★ Beach *421 B St. (p 117)*

Best **Open-air Bar (High-Rise)**
★★★ Altitude Skybar *660 K St. (p 117)*

Best **Open-air Bar (Low-Rise)**
★★★ J6Bar *616 J St. (p 117)*

Most **Thrilling Patio**
★★★ Airport *2400 India St. (p 117)*

Best **Supper Club**
★★★ Anthology *1337 India St. (p 121)*

Best **2-for-1 Experience**
★★★ The Onyx Room/Thin *852 Fifth Ave. (p 118)*

Best **Art Collection**
★★★ House of Blues *1055 Fifth Ave. (p 121)*

Coolest **Pool Room**
★★★ On Broadway *615 Broadway (p 119)*

Best **Spot for Latin Music**
★★ Sevilla *555 Fourth Ave. (p 122)*

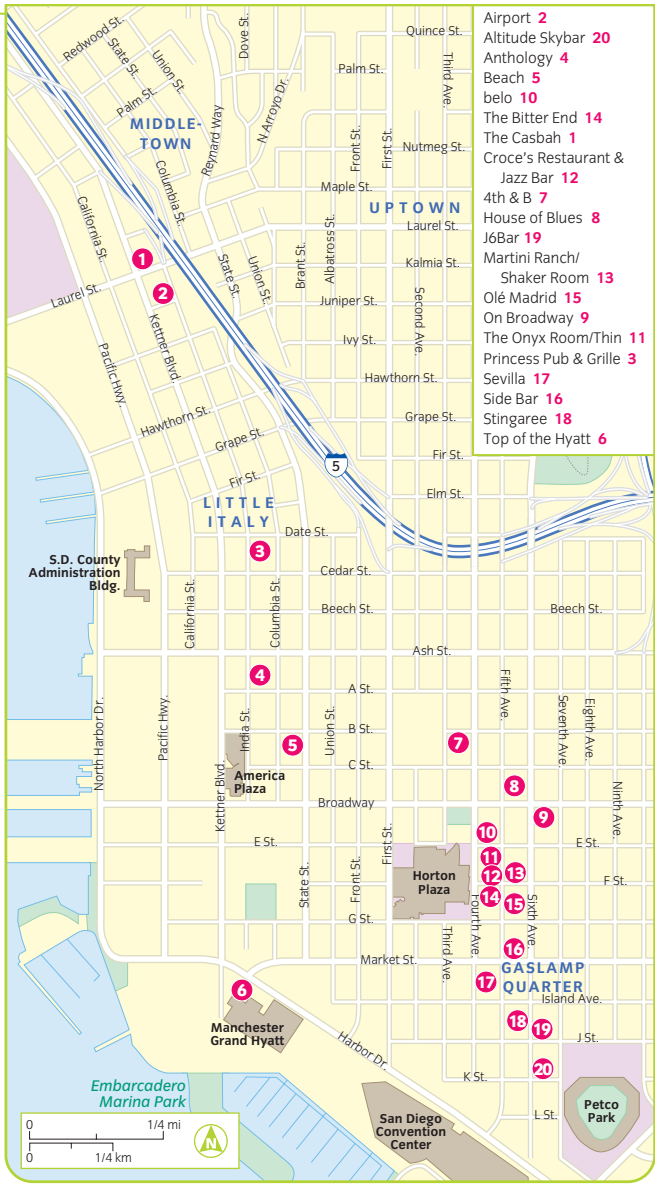
Best **Place to Launch Your Weekend (Gay)**
★★★ Top of the Park *525 Spruce St. (p 120)*

Best **Place to Launch Your Weekend (Straight)**
★★★ Side Bar *536 Market St. (p 118)*

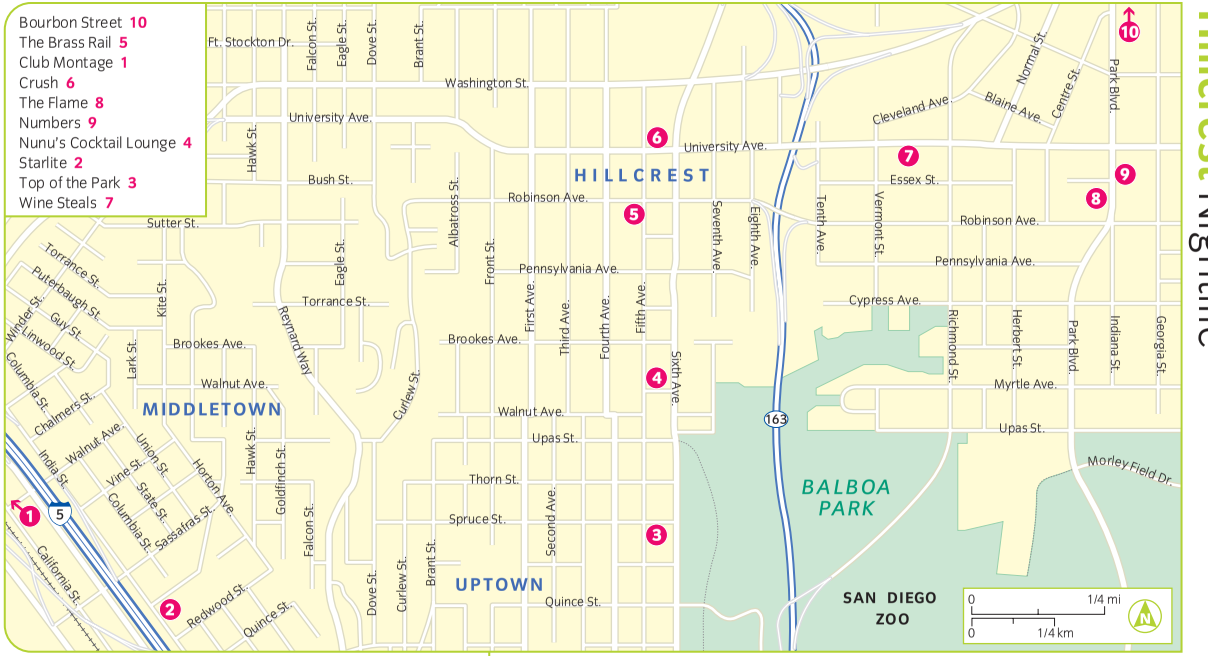
Anthology Supper Club.

Previous page: Airport in Little Italy.

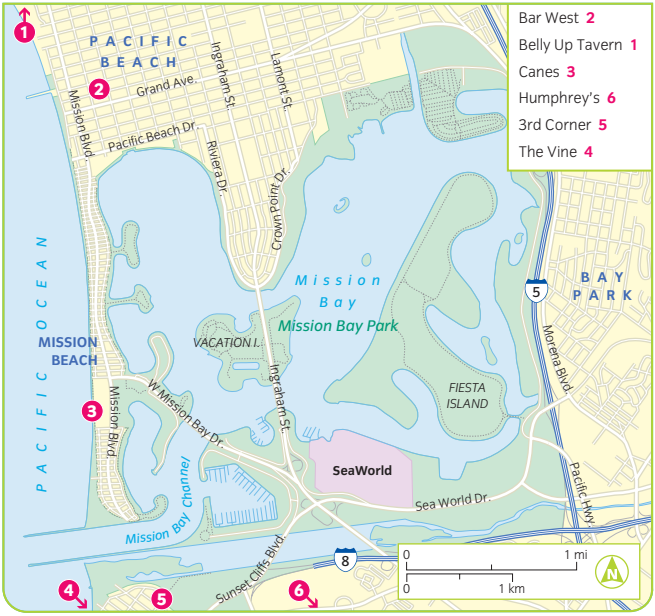
Downtown Nightlife



Hillcrest Nightlife



Nightlife on the Beaches



Nightlife A to Z

Bars

★★★ **Airport** LITTLE ITALY This sexy, minimalist gem has one of the best shows in town—from its very cool interior patio, you can almost touch the planes as they come roaring in for a landing at nearby Lindbergh Field. *2400 India St. (south of Laurel St.). ☎ 619/685-3881. www.airportsd.com. Bus: 83. Map p 115.*

★★★ **Altitude Skybar** GASLAMP QUARTER Twenty-two stories up in a Marriott hotel, this long, narrow open-air space looks down on PETCO Park and the Convention Center. *660 K St. (between 6th and 7th aves.). ☎ 619/696-0234. www.atltitudeskybar.com. Bus: 3, 11, 120, or 992. Trolley: Orange Line to Gaslamp Quarter. Map p 115.*

★★★ **Beach** DOWNTOWN This is the rooftop bar of the W hotel. Go ahead and kick off your shoes—the sand is heated. The hotel's two other bars, Living Room and Magnet, are also stylish venues. *421 B St. (at State St.). ☎ 619/398-3100. www.wbeachbar.com. Bus: 7, 901, or 929. Trolley: Blue or Orange Line to American Plaza or Civic Center. Map p 115.*

★★★ **J6Bar** GASLAMP QUARTER On the 4th-floor pool deck of the Hotel Solamar, there are fire pits, cabanas, comfy lounges, and views of the Gaslamp Quarter action. *616 J St. (at 6th Ave.). ☎ 619/531-8744.*

Altitude Skybar in the Gaslamp Quarter.

www.jsixsandiego.com. Bus: 3, 11, or 992. Trolley: Orange Line to Gaslamp Quarter. Map p 115.

★ **Martini Ranch/Shaker Room** GASLAMP QUARTER The split-level bar at Martini Ranch boasts more than 50 kinds of martinis (or martini-inspired concoctions). The Shaker Room is a dance club next door. *528 F St. (at 6th Ave.). ☎ 619/235-6100. www.martiniranchsd.com. Bus: 3, 11, or 992. Map p 115.*

★★ **Nunu's Cocktail Lounge** HILLCREST Lots of 1960s Naugahyde style, plus a kitchen that whips up burgers, liver-and-onions, and other grilled standards for an eclectic crowd. *3537 Fifth Ave. (at Ivy Lane). ☎ 619/295-2878. Bus: 3 or 120. Map p 116.*

★★★ **The Onyx Room/Thin** GASLAMP QUARTER At subterranean Onyx the atmosphere is lounge, the music is cool. Live jazz is featured on Tuesdays. At street level is hyper-modern Thin, run by the same crew. *852 Fifth Ave. (between E and F sts.). **Onyx** ☎ 619/235-6699, www.onyxroom.com; **Thin** ☎ 619/231-7529, www.thinroom.com. Bus: 3, 120, or 992. Map p 115.*

★ **Princess Pub & Grille** LITTLE ITALY A local haunt for Anglophiles and others hankering for a pint o' Watney's and some bangers 'n' mash. *1665 India St. (at Date St.). ☎ 619/702-3021. www.princesspub.com. Bus: 83. Trolley: Blue Line to County Center/Little Italy. Map p 115.*

★★★ **Side Bar** GASLAMP QUARTER Too cool for signage, Side Bar has roomy lounges and a sidewalk patio; plus you can get slices of New York–style pizza. *536 Market St. (northwest corner of 6th Ave. and Market St.). ☎ 619/696-0946. www.sidebarsd.com. Bus: 3, 11, or 992. Map p 115.*

The Bitter End in the Gaslamp Quarter.

Belo dance club in the Gaslamp Quarter.

★★★ **Top of the Hyatt** EMBARCADERO Perched on the 40th floor of the West Coast's tallest waterfront building, this is San Diego's ultimate bar with a view. *1 Market Pl. (at Harbor Dr.). ☎ 619/232-1234. Trolley: Orange Line to Seaport Village. Map p 115.*

Dance Clubs

★ **Bar West** PACIFIC BEACH With its bottle service, VIP booths, and dinner service, Bar West looks to bring some downtown chic to the beach. *959 Hornblend St. (between Cass and Bayard sts.). ☎ 858/273-4800. www.barwestsd.com. Bus: 8/9. Map p 117.*

★★ **belo** GASLAMP QUARTER Located below street level, this three-room circus features a retro design in pop-art hues and a restaurant (if you can manage to sit still). *Entrance on E St., between Fourth and Fifth aves. ☎ 619/231-9200. www.belosandiego.com. Bus: 3, 120, or 992. Map p 115.*

★★ **The Bitter End** GASLAMP QUARTER With three floors, this hot spot manages to be a sophisticated martini bar, dance club, and relaxing cocktail lounge all in one. *770 Fifth Ave. (at F St.). ☎ 619/338-9300. www.thebitterend.com. Bus: 3, 120, or 992. Map p 115.*

★★★ **On Broadway** GASLAMP QUARTER This dress-to-impress hangout in an old bank has five rooms covering the musical gamut, plus a sushi bar, and a billiards room in the former vault. *615 Broadway (at 6th Ave.). ☎ 619/231-0011. www.obec.tv. Bus: 2, 7, 15, 20, 30, 50, 150, 210, 901, 929, or 923. Trolley: Blue or Orange Line to 5th Ave. Map p 115.*

Gay & Lesbian Bars & Clubs

★★ **Bourbon Street** UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS There's an outdoor patio, a game room for darts or pool, a performance area (karaoke, drag shows, bingo, live music), and a lounge where DJs spin house music.

Bourbon Street in University Heights.

4612 Park Blvd. (near Adams Ave.). ☎ 619/291-4043. www.bourbonstreetsd.com. Bus: 11. Map p 116.

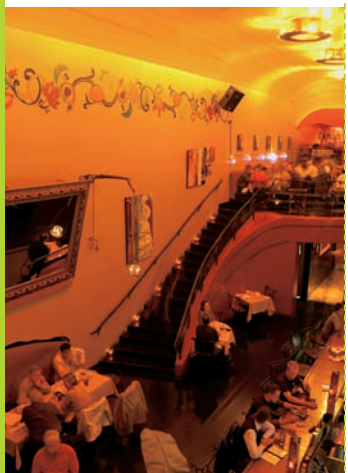
★★ **The Brass Rail** HILLCREST San Diego's oldest gay bar, it's been remodeled and refreshed, and now features VIP rooms, bottle service, and live music. *3796 Fifth Ave. (at Robinson St.). ☎ 619/298-2233. www.thebrassrailsd.com. Bus: 1, 3, 11 and 120. Map p 116.*

★★★ **Club Montage** MIDDLETOWN One of San Diego's first urban-glam venues, this three-level dance club thumps away till the wee after-hours. *2028 Hancock St. (north of Washington St. between Pacific Hwy. and I-5). ☎ 619/294-9590. www.clubmontage.com. Bus: 30 or 150. Trolley: Blue Line to Washington St. Map p 116.*

★★ **The Flame** HILLCREST It's usually boy's night on Friday, girls on Saturday, with a Goth gathering every second Saturday. There's classic neon out front. *3780 Park Blvd. (at Robinson Ave.). ☎ 619/295-4163. www.flamesd.com. Bus: 1, 7, or 10. Map p 116.*

★★ **Numbers** HILLCREST It's a predominantly male crowd at this busy dance emporium, located just up the street from The Flame; Friday is Bad Kitties (ladies') night. *3811 Park Blvd. (at University Ave.). ☎ 619/294-9005. www.numbers-sd.com. Bus: 1, 7, or 10. Map p 116.*

Olé Madrid in the Gaslamp Quarter.



★★★ **Top of the Park** HILLCREST The weekend party scene officially begins here at the penthouse bar of the Park Manor Hotel, Friday evenings from 5 to 10pm. *525 Spruce St. (at Fifth Ave.). ☎ 619/291-0999. www.parkmanorsuites.com. Bus: 3 or 120. Map p 116.*

Live Music Venues

★ **4th & B** DOWNTOWN In a former bank building, this venue has great sound and eclectic booking—everything from comedy to a wide range of musical artists. *345 B St. (at 4th Ave.). ☎ 619/299-2583. www.4thandB.com. Ticket prices vary. Trolley: Blue Line to 5th Ave. Map p 115.*

★★★ **Belly Up Tavern** SOLANA BEACH A 30-minute drive from downtown, this funky beach bar hosts international artists of all genres and is arguably San Diego's best spot for live music. *143 S. Cedros Ave. (south of Lomas Santa Fe Dr.). ☎ 858/481-9022 (recorded info) or 858/481-8140 (box office). www.bellyup.com. $15–$25. Bus: 101. Map p 117.*

Canes MISSION BEACH A killer beachfront location, right alongside the Mission Beach amusement park—the rooftop restaurant may be more compelling than the bands on stage. *3105 Ocean Front Walk (at Mission Blvd. and W. Mission Bay Dr.). ☎ 858/488-1780. www.canesbarandgrill.com. Ticket prices vary. Bus: 8/9. Map p 117.*

★★ **The Casbah** LITTLE ITALY This rockin' club has a well-earned rep for showcasing alternative and

punk bands that either are, were, or will be famous. Expect to hear live music at least 6 nights a week. ***2501 Kettner Blvd. (at Laurel St.). ☎ 619/232-4355. www.casbahmusic.com. Cover charge usually under $15. Bus: 83. Map p 115.***

★★ **Humphrey's** SHELTER ISLAND This locally beloved 1,300-seat outdoor venue is set on the water next to bobbing yachts. An indoor lounge, Humphrey's Backstage, also has music nightly. ***2241 Shelter Island Dr. ☎ 619/523-1010 (general info) or 619-224-3577 (reservations). www.humphreysconcerts.com. Ticket prices vary. Bus: 28. Map p 117.***

Supper Clubs

★★★ **Anthology** LITTLE ITALY Celebrity chef Bradley Ogden has put his imprimatur on the kitchen, while a host of marquee-name jazz, blues, and world-music artists take care of the entertainment. ***1337 India St. (between Ash and A sts.). ☎ 619/595-0300. www.anthologysd.com. Dinner packages $65 plus ticket (prices vary); $20 minimum food/beverage for first floor and mezzanine. Bus: 2, 11, or 923. Trolley: Blue or Orange Line to America Plaza. Map p 115.***

★★ **Croce's Restaurant & Jazz Bar** GASLAMP QUARTER A crowded, mainstream place where you'll find a variety of jazz and rhythm 'n' blues 7 nights a week. ***802 Fifth Ave. (at F St.). ☎ 619/233-4355. www.croces.com. Cover $5–$10 (cover is waived if you eat at the restaurant). Bus: 3, 20A, 120, or 992. Map p 115.***

Stingaree in the Gaslamp Quarter.

★★★ **House of Blues** DOWNTOWN Filled with cool art, there's an 1,100-person capacity concert space and a restaurant serving Southern-inspired cuisine (also open for lunch and Sunday Gospel brunch). ***1055 Fifth Ave.(between Broadway and C St.). ☎ 619/299-2583. www.hob.com/sandiego. Ticket prices vary. Trolley: Blue Line to 5th Ave. Map p 115.***

★★ **Olé Madrid** GASLAMP QUARTER This dressy restaurant and dance club features salsa on

Wine Steals in Hillcrest.

3rd Corner in Ocean Beach.

Wednesday night and a flamenco show on Friday and Saturday. ***751 Fifth Ave. (between F and G sts.). ☎ 619/557-0146. www.olemadrid.com. Cover $10–$15 after 10pm. Bus: 3, 11, or 992. Map p 115.***

★★ **Starlite** MIDDLETOWN This hip restaurant and bar eschews the large-scale dine and dance scene that's popular in the Gaslamp Quarter for an intimate, mondo-exotica lounge feel. ***3175 India St. ☎ 619/358-9766. www.starlitesandiego.com. No cover. Bus: 83. Trolley: Blue Line to Middletown. Map p 116.***

★★ **Sevilla** GASLAMP QUARTER This Latin-themed club is the spot for salsa and samba lessons; there's also a tapas bar and dining room. Live flamenco dinner shows take place Friday to Sunday. ***555 Fourth Ave (at Market St.). ☎ 619/233-5979. www.cafesevilla.com. Cover $5–$15. Bus: 3, 11, or 992. Map p 115.***

★★★ **Stingaree** GASLAMP QUARTER This 3-level club has more than 22,000 square feet (2,044 sq. m) of space, a fine dining component, a handful of bars and private nooks, and a rooftop deck with cabanas and fire pit. ***454 Sixth Ave. (between Island Ave. and J St.). ☎ 619/544-9500. www.stingsandiego.com. Cover $20. Bus: 992. Trolley: Orange Line to Gaslamp Quarter. Map p 115.***

Wine Bars

★★ **Crush** HILLCREST Hip and stylish, Crush also has specialty cocktails and tasty food. ***530 University Ave. (at 6th Ave.). ☎ 619/291-1717. www.crushsd.com. Bus: 1, 3, 11, 83, or 120. Map p 116.***

★★★ **3rd Corner** OCEAN BEACH This convivial wine bar multitasks as a restaurant and as a wine shop where you can meander through racks of wines looking for the right one to uncork. ***2265 Bacon St. (between Voltaire St. and W. Point Loma Blvd.). ☎ 619/223-2700. www.the3rdcorner.com. Bus: 923. Map p 117.***

★★ **The Vine** OCEAN BEACH Wine and beer drinkers can find common ground here—there's a great selection of suds, as well as an eclectic menu of small-plate offerings. ***1851 Bacon St. (at Niagara Ave.). ☎ 619/222-8463. www.theobvine.com. Bus: 35 or 923. Map p 117.***

★★ **Wine Steals** HILLCREST This casual neighborhood spot also has a wine-shop component and is conveniently attached to a cheese store. ***1243 University Ave.(between Richmond and Vermont sts.). ☎ 619/295-1188. www.winestealssd.com. Bus: 1, 10, or 11. Map p 116.***

8 The Best **Arts & Entertainment**

A&E Best Bets

Best **Classical Music Festival**
★★★ La Jolla Music Society SummerFest *various locations (p 126)*

Best **Sports Venue**
★★★ San Diego Padres' PETCO Park *100 Park Blvd. (p 129)*

Best Place for **Culture in a Mall**
★★ San Diego Repertory Theatre *Horton Plaza (p 130)*

Best **Place for Foreign and Indie Film**
★★ Hillcrest Cinema *3965 Fifth Ave. (p 127)*

Best **Restored Venue**
★★★ North Park Theatre *2891 University Ave. (p 127)*

Most **Anticipated Restored Venue**
★★ Balboa Theatre *850 Fourth Ave. (p 126)*

Best **Use of Strings and Pyrotechnics**
★★ San Diego Symphony Summer Pops *Embarcadero Marina Park South (p 126)*

Best **Broadway-Bound Fare**
★★★ La Jolla Playhouse *2910 La Jolla Village Dr. (p 129);* and ★★★ Old Globe Theatre *Balboa Park (p 130)*

Best **Place to Get Your Dance On**
★★ Dance Place at NTC Promenade *2650 Truxton Rd. (p 127)*

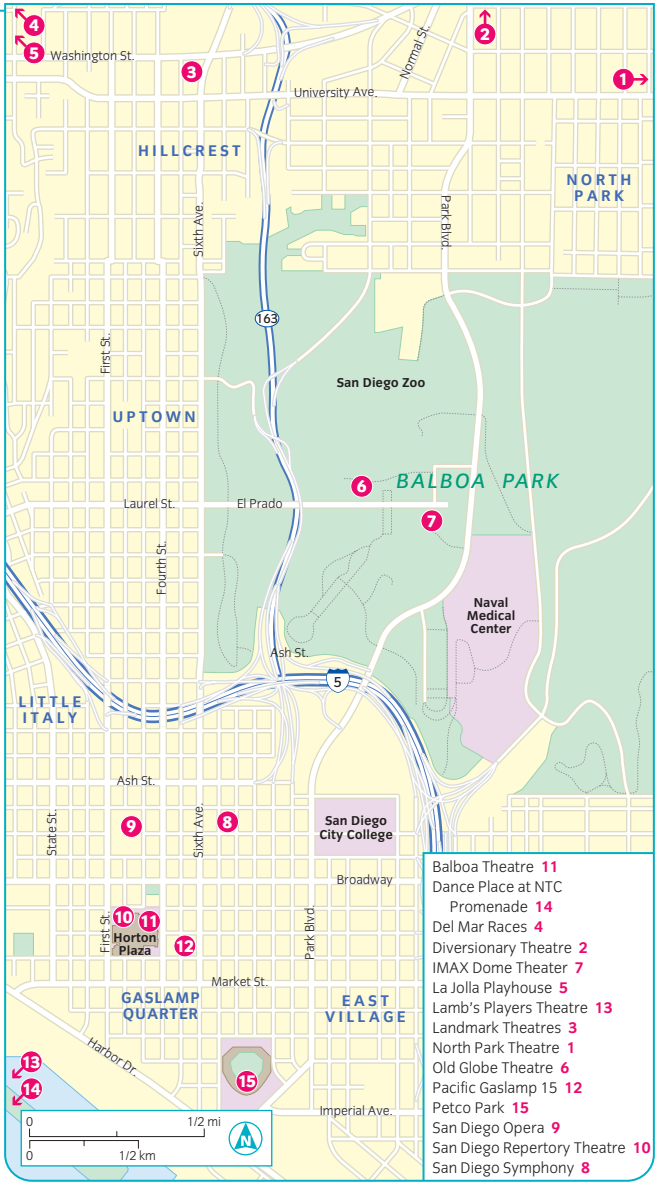
Most **Extreme Screen**
★★★ Fleet Science Center IMAX Dome Theater *Balboa Park (p 127)*

Best **Place for Tragic Heroines**
★★★ San Diego Opera *1200 Third Ave. (p 128)*

Best **Place for Horsing Around**
★★★ Del Mar Races *2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd. (p 128)*

Del Mar Race Track. *Previous Page: PETCO Park, home of the San Diego Padres.*

Downtown/Balboa Park A&E



Balboa Theatre **11**
Dance Place at NTC Promenade **14**
Del Mar Races **4**
Diversionary Theatre **2**
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Landmark Theatres **3**
North Park Theatre **1**
Old Globe Theatre **6**
Pacific Gaslamp 15 **12**
Petco Park **15**
San Diego Opera **9**
San Diego Repertory Theatre **10**
San Diego Symphony **8**

A&E A to Z

The San Diego Symphony, downtown.

Classical Music

★★★ La Jolla Music Society VARIOUS LOCATIONS This well-respected organization has been bringing marquee names to San Diego since 1968; the annual SummerFest in August is always highly anticipated, featuring concerts, lectures, and workshops. ***Performances at Sherwood Auditorium at the Museum of Contemporary Art in La Jolla, Neurosciences Institute, Copley Symphony Hall, and North Park Theatre. ☎ 858/459-3728. www.ljms.org. Tickets $20–$95.***

★★ San Diego Symphony DOWNTOWN/EMBARCADERO Top talent performs at Copley Symphony Hall, then transfers to the waterfront for an open-air summer pops season. ***Symphony Hall, 750 B St. (at 7th Ave.). ☎ 619/235-0804. www.sandiegosymphony.com. Bus: 3 or 120; Trolley: Blue or Orange Line to 5th Ave.; Embarcadero Marina Park South (behind the Convention Center), Trolley: Orange Line to Gaslamp Quarter. Tickets $20–$85. Map p 125.***

Concert & Performance Venues

★★ Balboa Theatre GASLAMP QUARTER Scheduled to reopen in January 2008, the restoration of this beautiful 1920s-era theater has been

What a Deal

Half-price tickets to theater, music, and dance events are available at the ARTS TIX booth in Horton Plaza Park, at Broadway and Third avenues. The kiosk is open Tuesday through Thursday at 11am, Friday to Sunday at 10am. The booth stays open until 6pm daily except Sunday, when it closes at 5pm. Half-price tickets are available only for same-day shows, except for Monday performances, which are sold on Sunday. For a daily listing of offerings, call ☎ 619/497-5000 or check www.sandiegoperforms.com; the website also sells half-price tickets for some shows. Full-price advance tickets are also available—the booth doubles as a Ticketmaster outlet.

The San Diego Opera, downtown.

a hard-fought battle for preservationists. ***850 Fourth Ave. (between E and F sts.). Check www.ccdc.com for contact info. Bus: 3, 120, 992, or all Broadway routes. Map p 125.***

★★★ North Park Theatre NORTH PARK This gloriously restored vaudeville house is home to Lyric Opera San Diego and also hosts a variety of performances and film presentations by other groups. ***2891 University Ave. (at Kansas St.) ☎ 619/239-8836. www.lyricoperasandiego.org. Ticket prices vary. Bus: 2 or 7. Map p 125.***

Dance

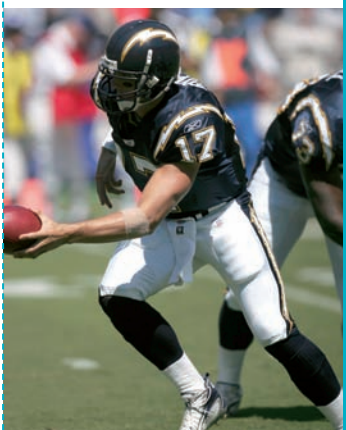
★★ Dance Place at NTC Promenade POINT LOMA This former military base is now the heart of the city's dance scene, providing studio, performance, and educational space for **San Diego Ballet** (☎ 619/294-7378; www.sandiegoballet.org), **Malashock Dance** (☎ 619/260-1622; www.malashockdance.org), and **Jean Isaacs San Diego Dance Theater** (☎ 858/484-7791; www.sandiegodancetheater.org). ***2650 Truxton Rd. (at Dewey Rd.). ☎ 619/226-1491. www.ntcpromenade.org. Bus: 28. Map p 125.***

Film

★★★ IMAX Dome Theater BALBOA PARK The Reuben H. Fleet Science Center features movies in the early evening projected onto the 76-foot (23m) tilted-dome screen (later shows on weekends). ***Balboa Park (adjacent to Park Blvd.). ☎ 619/238-1233. www.rhfleet.org. Tickets $7.50–$17. Bus: 7. Map p 125.***

★★ Landmark Theatres HILLCREST/LA JOLLA Indie and foreign films play at these multiscreen (five at Hillcrest, four at La Jolla) cinemas. ***Hillcrest Cinema, 3965 Fifth Ave.***

San Diego Chargers.



PETCO Park in the East Village.

(between University Ave. and Washington St.). Bus: 1, 3, 10, 11, 83, or 120. La Jolla Village, 8879 Villa La Jolla Dr. (at Nobel Dr.). Bus: 30 or 150. ☎ 619/819-0236. www.landmarktheatres.com. Tickets $7.25–$9.50. Map p 125.

★★ **Pacific Gaslamp 15** GASLAMP QUARTER Located in the heart of the Gaslamp, these 15 theaters all offer stadium seating with large screens and great sound systems. *701 Fifth Ave. (at G St.). ☎ 619/232-0400. www.pacific theatres.com. Tickets $7–$10.50. Bus: 3, 11, 120, or 992. Map p 125.*

Diversionary Theatre.

Opera

★★★ **San Diego Opera** DOWNTOWN A season of both well-trod warhorses and edgier works runs from late January to mid-May, performed at the Civic Theatre by local singers and name talent from around the world. *1200 Third Ave. (at B St.). ☎ 619/533-7000 (box office) or ☎ 619/232-7636 (admin). www.sdopera.com. Tickets $27–$182. Bus: 30, 50, 150, 923, or 992. Trolley: Blue or Orange Line to Civic Center. Map p 125.*

Spectator Sports

★★★ **Del Mar Races** DEL MAR Thoroughbred racing takes place at the Del Mar Race Track from mid-July to early September. Party crowds come for post-race concerts and other special events; there's year-round satellite wagering at the fairgrounds' Surfside Race Place (☎ 858/755-1167; www.surfsideraceplace.com). *2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd. (at Via de la Valle). ☎ 858/755-1141. www.delmarracing.com. Tickets $5–$15. Bus: 101. Map p 125.*

★★ **San Diego Chargers** MISSION VALLEY The city's NFL team plays at Qualcomm Stadium; the season runs from August to December. *9449 Friars Rd. (between the 805 and 15 freeways). ☎ 877/242-7437. www.chargers.com. Tickets $54–$290. Trolley: Green Line or special event Blue Line to Qualcomm Stadium.*

★★★ **San Diego Padres** EAST VILLAGE Major League Baseball action at PETCO Park, an architecturally striking downtown facility; season runs April to September. *100 Park Blvd. (bordered by 7th and 10th aves. at J St.). ☎ 877/374-2784 or 619/795-5000. www.padres.com. Tickets $5–$67. Trolley: Orange or special event line to Gaslamp Quarter; Blue or Orange Line to 12th & Imperial Transit Center or Park & Market. Map p 125.*

Theater

★★ **Diversionary Theatre** UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS This 104-seat theater focuses on plays with gay and lesbian themes. *4545 Park Blvd. (between Madison and Monroe aves.). ☎ 619/220-0097. www.diversionary.org. Tickets $27–$29, $9 student rush 1 hour prior to curtain. Bus: 11. Map p 125.*

★★★ **La Jolla Playhouse** LA JOLLA The Tony Award–winning Playhouse is known for its contemporary takes on classics and commitment to *commedia dell'arte* style, as well as producing Broadway-bound blockbusters. *2910 La Jolla Village Dr. (at Torrey Pines Rd.). ☎ 858/550-1010. www.lajollaplayhouse.org. Tickets $28–$72. Bus: 30, 41, 48, 49, 101, 150, or 921. Map p 125.*

★★ **Lamb's Players Theatre** CORONADO Featuring a true resident ensemble, Lamb's presents both premieres and classics, keeping things on the safe, noncontroversial side. *1142 Orange Ave. (at C Ave.). ☎ 619/437-0600. www.lambsplayers.org. Tickets $26–$48. Bus: 901 or 904. Map p 125.*

Lowell Davies Festival Theater, part of the Old Globe Theatre complex.

Sure Bets

San Diego has 18 Native American tribes, half of which operate casinos. The most accessible from downtown is **Viejas Casino** (5000 Willows Rd., Alpine; ☎ 800/847-6537; www.viejas.com)—it's a straight shot out I-8 (exit Willows Rd.), less than a half-hour's drive away. Viejas also has an outlet center with more than 50 brand-name retailers. **Barona Valley Ranch Resort and Casino** (1932 Wildcat Canyon Rd., Lakeside; ☎ 888/722-7662 or 619/443-2300; www.barona.com), has 2,000 Vegas-style slots, nearly 70 table games, and an off-track betting area. The resort includes 400 guest rooms, a spa, and an 18-hole championship golf course. Take I-8 east to Highway 67 north; at Willows Road, turn right and continue to Wildcat Canyon Road; turn left, and continue 6 miles (10km) to the reservation (allow 40 min. from downtown). **Sycuan Resort & Casino** is outside El Cajon, at 5469 Casino Way (☎ 800/279-2826 or 619/445-6002; www.sycuan.com). Follow I-8 east for 10 miles (16km) to the El Cajon Boulevard exit. Take El Cajon 3 blocks to Washington Avenue, turning right and continuing on Washington as it turns into Dehesa Road. Stay on Dehesa for 5 miles (8km), and follow the signs (allow 30 min. from downtown). Sycuan features 2,000 slots, 65 game tables, a 1,200-seat bingo palace, an off-track betting area, and a 450-seat theater that features name touring acts; Sycuan's 54 holes of golf are also some of San Diego's best.

★★★ **The Old Globe Theatre** BALBOA PARK This Tony Award–winning, three-theater complex attracts big-name playwrights and performers, and has spawned a number of Broadway hits. The summer Shakespeare Festival features three works by the Bard. ***Balboa Park (behind the Museum of Man). ☎ 619/234-5623. www.theoldglobe.org. Tickets $19–$65. Bus: 3, 7, or 120. Map p 125.***

Lamb's Players.

★★ **San Diego Repertory Theatre** GASLAMP QUARTER The Rep mounts plays and musicals with a strong multicultural bent, performing in the two-stage Lyceum Theatre at Horton Plaza. ***79 Broadway Circle, in Horton Plaza. ☎ 619/544-1000. www.sandiegorep.com. Tickets $28–$43. Bus: All Broadway routes. Map p 125.***

9 The Best **Lodging**

Lodging Best Bets

Best **Historic Hotel**
★★★ Hotel Del Coronado **$$$$**
1500 Orange Ave. (p 139)

Best **for a Romantic Getaway**
★★★ The Lodge at Torrey Pines **$$$$** *11480 N. Torrey Pines Rd. (p 142)*

Best **for Families**
★★ Paradise Point Resort & Spa **$$$** *1404 Vacation Rd. (p 143)*

Best **Moderately Priced Hotel**
★ Horton Grand Hotel **$$** *311 Island Ave. (p 139)*

Best **Budget Hotel**
★ La Pensione Hotel **$** *606 W. Date St. (p 141)*

Best **Bed & Breakfast**
★★★ Britt Scripps Inn **$$$$** *406 Maple St. (p 137)*

Best **Boutique Inn**
★★★ Hotel Parisi **$$$$** *1111 Prospect St. (p 140)*

Best **Place to Stay on the Beach**
★★ Tower 23 **$$$$** *723 Felspar St. (p 143)*

Best **Place to Stay Over the Beach**
★★ Crystal Pier Hotel **$$$** *4500 Ocean Blvd. (p 137)*

Best for **Travelers With Disabilities**
★ Manchester Grand Hyatt **$$$$**
1 Market Pl. (p 142)

Best **Place to Watch a Concert From Your Room**
★★★ The Hard Rock Hotel **$$$**
207 Fifth Ave. (p 139)

Best **Pool**
★★ Hotel Solamar **$$$$** *435 Sixth Ave. (p 140)*

Best **Golf Resort**
★★★ Four Seasons Resort Aviara **$$$$** *7100 Four Seasons Point (p 138)*

Best **Place to Adjust Your Chakras**
★★ La Costa Resort and Spa **$$$$**
2100 Costa del Mar Rd. (p 141)

Best for **Baseball Fans**
★★ Omni San Diego Hotel **$$$$**
675 L St. (p 143)

Best for **Modernists**
★★ Keating Hotel **$$$$** *432 F St. (p 140)*

Best for **Traditionalists**
★★ The Westgate Hotel **$$$$**
1055 Second Ave. (p 144)

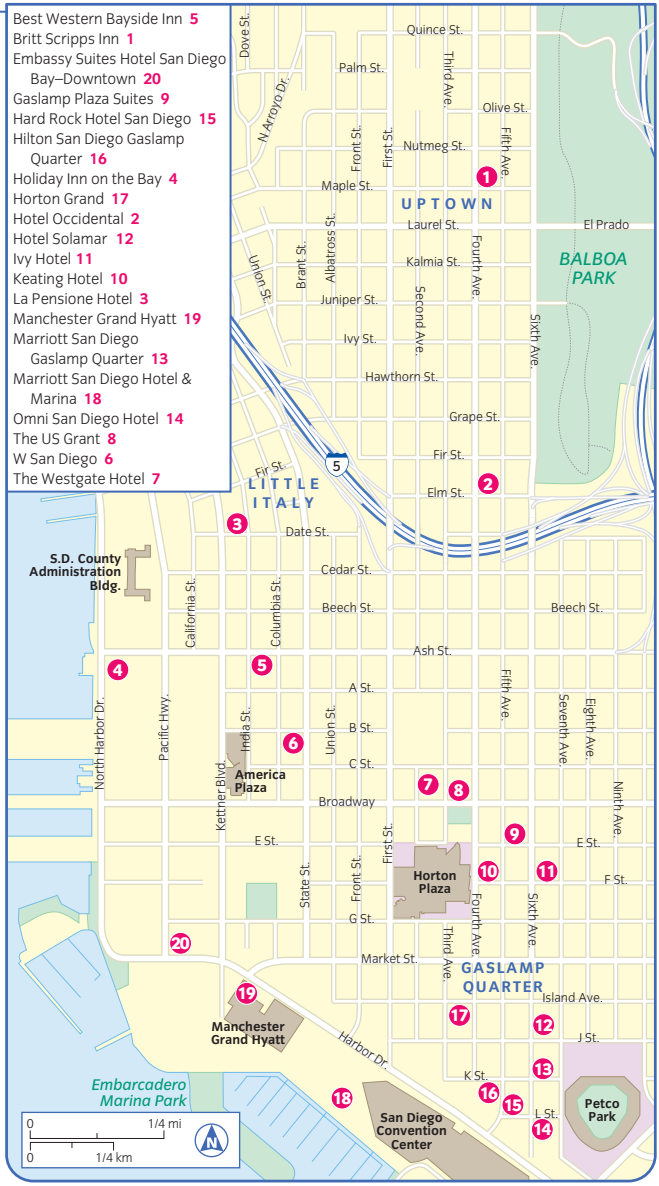
Best **Retreat from the World**
★★ Loews Coronado Bay Resort **$$$$** *4000 Coronado Bay Rd. (p 142)*

Aviara Four Seasons.

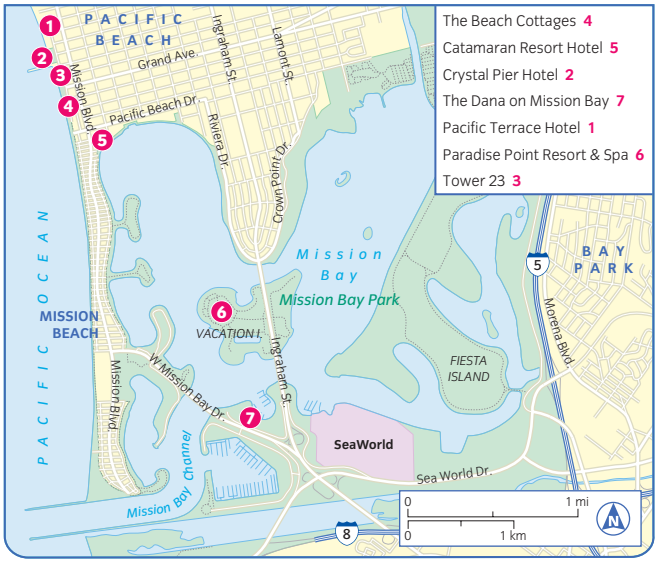
Previous page: The pool at Paradise Point.

Downtown Lodging

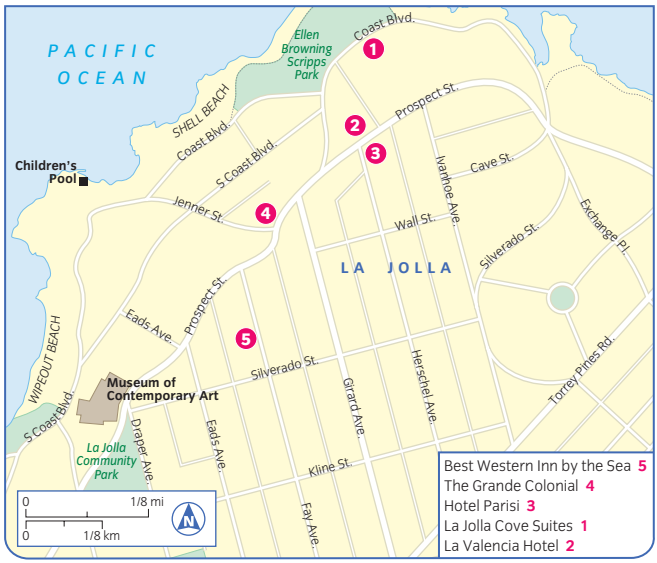
- Best Western Bayside Inn 5
- Britt Scripps Inn 1
- Embassy Suites Hotel San Diego Bay–Downtown 20
- Gaslamp Plaza Suites 9
- Hard Rock Hotel San Diego 15
- Hilton San Diego Gaslamp Quarter 16
- Holiday Inn on the Bay 4
- Horton Grand 17
- Hotel Occidental 2
- Hotel Solamar 12
- Ivy Hotel 11
- Keating Hotel 10
- La Pensione Hotel 3
- Manchester Grand Hyatt 19
- Marriott San Diego Gaslamp Quarter 13
- Marriott San Diego Hotel & Marina 18
- Omni San Diego Hotel 14
- The US Grant 8
- W San Diego 6
- The Westgate Hotel 7



Mission Bay Lodging



La Jolla Lodging



Hotels **on the Beaches**

Lodging A to Z

Britt Scripps Inn.

★ **Balboa Park Inn** HILLCREST Popular with gay travelers. The hotel's specialty accommodations, such as the "Greystoke" suite, are over-the-top. ***3402 Park Blvd. (at Upas St.). ☎ 800/938-8181. www.balboaparkinn.com. 26 units. Doubles $99 w/breakfast. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 7. Map p 135.***

The Beach Cottages PACIFIC BEACH This family-owned operation has been around since 1948 and offers a variety of guest quarters, including cottages just steps from the sand. ***4255 Ocean Blvd. (1 block south of Grand Ave.). ☎ 858/483-7440. www.beachcottages.com. 61 units. Doubles $135–$155. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 8, 9, or 30. Map p 134.***

Coronado Bay Inn.

Best Western Bayside Inn DOWNTOWN Accommodations here are basic chain-hotel issue, but they are well maintained and have balconies overlooking the bay or downtown. ***555 W. Ash St. (at Columbia St.). ☎ 800/341-1818. www.baysideinn.com. 122 units. Doubles $189 w/breakfast. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 7, 11, 30, 50, 810, or 820. Trolley: Blue or Orange Line to America Plaza. Map p 133.***

★ **Best Western Inn by the Sea** LA JOLLA Occupying an enviable location in the heart of La Jolla's charming village, this property is just a short walk from the cliffs and beach. ***7830 Fay Ave. (between Prospect and Silverado sts.). ☎ 800/526-4545. www.bestwestern.com/innbythesea. 132 units.***

Doubles $159–$239 w/breakfast. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 30. Map p 134.

★★★ **Britt Scripps Inn** BANKERS HILL A glorious Victorian house lovingly converted into an intimate "estate hotel"—part B&B, part luxury hotel. *406 Maple St. (at 4th Ave.). ☎ 888/881-1991. www.brittscripps.com. 9 units. Doubles $435–$525 w/breakfast and afternoon wine and hors d'oeuvres. AE, DC, MC, V. Bus: 3 or 120. Map p 133.*

★★ kids **Catamaran Resort Hotel** PACIFIC BEACH Right on Mission Bay, this Polynesian-themed resort has its own beach, complete with watersports facilities. *3999 Mission Blvd. (4 blocks south of Grand Ave.). ☎ 800/422-8386. www.catamaranresort.com. 315 units. Doubles $254–$409. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 8, 9, 27. Map p 134.*

★ **Coronado Inn** CORONADO This tropically flavored 1940s motel is centrally located and terrifically priced, and maintains a friendly ambience. *266 Orange Ave. (corner of 3rd St.). ☎ 800/598-6624. www.coronadoinn.com. 30 units. Doubles $165 w/breakfast. AE, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 901 or 904. Map p 135.*

★★ kids **Crystal Pier Hotel** PACIFIC BEACH This utterly unique cluster of cottages literally sits over the surf on the vintage Crystal Pier. *4500 Ocean Blvd. (at Garnet Ave.). ☎ 800/748-5894. www.crystalpier.com. 29 units. Doubles $300–$375. DISC, MC, V. Bus: 8, 9, 27, or 30. Map p 134.*

★ **The Dana on Mission Bay** MISSION BAY Some rooms here overlook bobbing sailboats in the recreational marina; beaches and SeaWorld are a 15-minute walk away. *1710 W. Mission Bay Dr. (off Ingraham St.). ☎ 800/345-9995. www.thedana.net. 270 units. Doubles $229–$319. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 8 or 9. Map p 134.*

Del Mar Motel on the Beach DEL MAR The only property in Del Mar right on the beach, this simply furnished little white-stucco motel has been here since 1946. *1702 Coast Blvd. (at 17th St.). ☎ 800/223-8449. www.delmarmotelonthebeach.com. 44 units. Doubles $259–$299. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 101. Map p 135.*

★ **El Cordova Hotel** CORONADO With its courtyard, meandering pathways, and prime location across from the Hotel del Coronado, this Spanish hacienda is a popular option. *1351 Orange Ave. (at Adella Ave.). ☎ 800/229-2032. www.elcordovahotel.com. 40 units. Doubles*

Grand Del Mar.

Grand Colonial.

$169–$215. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 901 or 904. Map p 135.

★★ Embassy Suites Hotel San Diego Bay–Downtown EMBARCADERO At this modern, neoclassical high-rise every room is a suite with kitchenette and bay or city views. *601 Pacific Hwy. (at N. Harbor Dr.). ☎ 800/362-2779. www.embassysuites.com. 337 units. Suites $279–$389 w/breakfast and afternoon cocktail. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 7, 923, 929, or 992. Trolley: Orange Line to Seaport Village. Map p 133.*

★★★ Estancia La Jolla Hotel and Spa LA JOLLA This California rancho-style property is built on the remains of a horse farm, and was named one of the world's hottest new hotels in 2005 by *Condé Nast Traveler*. *9700 N. Torrey Pines Rd. (north of Almahurst Row). ☎ 877/437-8262. www.estancialajolla.com. 210 units. Doubles $249–$399. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 101. Map p 135.*

★★★ kids Four Seasons Resort Aviara CARLSBAD This ocean-view resort, a AAA 5 Diamond property, hits the trifecta—its spa, restaurant, and golf course are all outstanding. A surf concierge is available for lessons. *7100 Four Seasons Point (at Aviara Pkwy.). ☎ 800/332-3442. www.fourseasons.com/aviara. 329 units. Doubles $405–$585. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. No public transportation. Map p 135.*

★★ Gaslamp Plaza Suites GASLAMP QUARTER At 11 stories, this was San Diego's first skyscraper, built in 1913. Most rooms are spacious and offer luxuries rare in this price range. *520 E St. (corner of 5th Ave.). ☎ 800/874-8770. www.gaslampplaza.com. 64 units. Doubles $109–$159 w/breakfast. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 3, 120, 992, or any Broadway route. Trolley: Blue or Orange Line to Fifth Ave. Map p 133.*

★★ Glorietta Bay Inn CORONADO Across the street from the Hotel del Coronado, this pretty hotel consists of the charmingly historic John D. Spreckels mansion (1908) and several younger, motel-style buildings. *1630 Glorietta Blvd. (near Orange Ave.). ☎ 800/283-9383. www.gloriettabayinn.com. 100 units. Doubles $170–$650 w/breakfast. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 901 or 904. Map p 135.*

★★★ The Grand Del Mar DEL MAR In the foothills of Del Mar, this new luxury resort is a fanciful Spanish Revival creation with lushly landscaped courtyards and gardens; it also incorporates a Tom Fazio–designed golf course. *5200 Grand Del Mar Way (off Carmel Country Rd.). ☎ 858/314-2000. www.thegranddelmar.com. 249 units. Doubles from $575. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. No public transportation. Map p 135.*

★★ **The Grande Colonial** LA JOLLA This refined hotel possesses an old-world European flair that's more London or Georgetown than seaside La Jolla. ***910 Prospect St. (between Fay and Girard aves.). ☎ 800/826-1278. www.thegrandecolonial.com. 75 units. Doubles $285–$460. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 30. Map p 134.***

★★★ **Hard Rock Hotel San Diego** GASLAMP QUARTER This 12-story condo-hotel has a sweet location, a celebrity-chef restaurant, and an outdoor concert space. The Black Eyed Peas designed one of the "Rock Star" suites. ***207 Fifth Ave. (between K and L sts.). ☎ 888/593-6177. www.hardrockhotelsd.com. 420 units. Doubles $250–$500. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 992. Trolley: Orange Line to Gaslamp Quarter. Map p 133.***

★★★ **Hilton San Diego Gaslamp Quarter** GASLAMP QUARTER This handsome hotel incorporates elements of a historic building. It's also a great place for guests who want to be in the heart of the Gaslamp action. ***401 K St. (at 4th Ave.). ☎ 800/445-8667. www.hilton.com. 282 units. Doubles $329. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 992. Trolley: Orange Line to Gaslamp Quarter or Convention Center. Map p 133.***

★★ kids **Holiday Inn on the Bay** EMBARCADERO This three-building high-rise complex has a scenic location across from the harbor and the Maritime Museum, only 1½ miles (2.4km) from the airport. ***1355 N. Harbor Dr. (at Ash St.). ☎ 800/465-4329. www.holiday-inn.com/san-onthebay. 600 units. Doubles $224. AE, DC, MC, V. Bus: 2, 210, 810, 820, 850, 860, 923, or 992. Trolley: Blue or Orange Line to America Plaza. Map p 133.***

★ **Horton Grand** GASLAMP QUARTER The charming Horton Grand combines two hotels built in 1886. Both were saved from demolition and moved to this spot. ***311 Island Ave. (at 4th Ave.). ☎ 800/542-1886. www.hortongrand.com. 132 units. Doubles $169–$199. AE, DC, MC, V. Bus: 3, 11, 120, or 992. Trolley: Orange Line to Convention Center. Map p 133.***

★★★ **Hotel del Coronado** CORONADO Opened in 1888 and designated a National Historic Landmark in 1977, the Hotel Del is the last of California's stately old seaside hotels and a monument to Victorian grandeur. ***1500 Orange Ave. (at Dana Pl.). ☎ 800/468-3533. www.hoteldel.com. 688 rooms. Doubles $245–$545. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 901 or 904. Map p 135.***

Hard Rock San Diego.

La Costa.

★ **Hotel Occidental** BANKERS HILL Just a block from Balboa Park, this attractive Mission-style building has been restored to its 1923 glory. *410 Elm St. (between 4th and 5th aves.). ☎ 800/205-9897. www.hoteloccidental-sandiego.com. 54 units. Doubles $99 w/breakfast. AE, MC, V. Bus: 3 or 120. Map p 133.*

★★★ **Hotel Parisi** LA JOLLA Feng shui principles hold sway at this boutique hotel; the Italy-meets-Zen composition is carried into the 20 rooms, where custom furnishings are modern yet comfy. *1111 Prospect St. (at Herschel Ave.). ☎ 877/472-7474. www.hotelparisi.com. 28 units. Doubles $265–$425 w/breakfast. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 30. Map p 134.*

★★ **Hotel Solamar** GASLAMP QUARTER This stylishly urban and sophisticated property provides excellent Gaslamp digs. The 4th-floor pool bar is a hot spot. *435 Sixth Ave. (between J St. and Island Ave.). ☎ 877/230-0300. www.hotelsolamar.com. 235 units. Doubles $379. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 3, 11, or 992. Trolley: Orange Line to Gaslamp Quarter. Map p 133.*

★★ **Ivy Hotel** GASLAMP QUARTER A dowdy old hotel has been magically transformed into a world-class, high-style luxury destination. It features a four-level nightclub and rooftop pool/entertainment area. *650 F St. (between 6th and 7th aves.). ☎ 619/814-1000. www.ivyhotel.com. 159 units. Doubles $450–$550. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 3, 120, or 992. Map p 133.*

★★ **Keating Hotel** GASLAMP QUARTER The Italian design group behind Ferrari and Maserati has made its first foray into hotel design with this ultra-contemporary project, set in a gorgeous structure built in 1890. *432 F St. (between 4th and 5th aves.). ☎ 877/753-2846. www.keatinghotel.com. 35 units. Doubles $429–$459. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 3, 120, or 992. Map p 133.*

The Keating Hotel.

Hotel Solamar.

★★★ **L'Auberge Del Mar Resort & Spa** DEL MAR An excellent spa and one of the area's finest restaurants are highlights of this elegant hotel, situated across from Del Mar's shopping and dining scene, and a short jog from the sand. ***1540 Camino del Mar (at 15th St.). ☎ 800/245-9757. www.laubergedelmar.com. 120 units. Doubles $325–$470. AE, DC, MC, V. Bus: 101. Map p 135.***

★★ kids **La Costa Resort and Spa** CARLSBAD This campuslike golf and tennis resort has a California ranch style. There's also a 42-room spa, the new-age Chopra Center for adults, waterslides, and entertainment for the kids. ***2100 Costa del Mar Rd. (at El Camino Real). ☎ 800/854-5000. www.lacosta.com. 511 units. Doubles $300–$500. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 309. Map p 135.***

La Jolla Cove Suites LA JOLLA Sitting across from Ellen Browning Scripps Park, this family-run 1950s-era hotel has to-die-for ocean views and is steps away from the Cove. ***1155 Coast Blvd. (across from the Cove). ☎ 888/525-6552. www.lajollacove.com. 90 units. Doubles $219–$429 w/breakfast. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 30. Map p 134.***

★ kids **La Jolla Shores Hotel** LA JOLLA Spend time on the beach or the tennis court at this three-story 1960s hotel in a mainly residential enclave. ***8110 Camino del Oro (at Avenida de la Playa). ☎ 866/392-8762. www.ljshoreshotel.com. 128 units. Doubles $309–$579. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 30. Map p 135.***

★ **La Pensione Hotel** LITTLE ITALY This place has a lot going for it: modern amenities, remarkable value, a convenient location, a friendly staff, and free parking. ***606 W. Date St. (at India St.). ☎ 800/232-4683. www.lapensionehotel.com. 80 units. Doubles $90. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 83. Trolley: Blue Line to County Center/Little Italy. Map p 133.***

★★★ **La Valencia Hotel** LA JOLLA This bluff-top hotel, which looks like a Mediterranean villa, has been the centerpiece of La Jolla since opening in 1926; La V's clubby

L'auberge del Mar.

Torrey Pines Lodge.

Whaling Bar is a classic. *1132 Prospect St. (at Herschel Ave.). ☎ 800/451-0772. www.lavalencia.com. 117 units. Doubles $275–$575. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 30. Map p 134.*

Les Artistes DEL MAR A funky, informal hotel, just a few blocks from downtown Del Mar, where the rooms have been redone as tributes to favored artists like Diego Rivera. *944 Camino del Mar (between 9th and 10th sts.). ☎ 858/755-4646. www.lesartistesinn.com. 12 units. Doubles $85–$195 w/breakfast. DISC, MC, V. Bus: 101. Map p 135.*

★★★ The Lodge at Torrey Pines LA JOLLA This AAA 5 Diamond resort is a Craftsman-style fantasy brimming with clinker-brick masonry, Stickley furniture, and exquisite pottery. Some rooms overlook the golf course and the ocean.

Manchester Grand Hyatt.

11480 N. Torrey Pines Rd. (at Callan Rd.). ☎ 800/656-0087. www.lodgetorreypines.com. 175 units. Doubles from $575. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 101. Map p 135.

★★ kids Loews Coronado Bay Resort CORONADO Located on its own private peninsula 4 miles (6.5km) south of downtown Coronado, this isolated resort destination has a plethora of water-related activities. *4000 Coronado Bay Rd. (off Silver Strand Blvd.). ☎ 800/235-6397. www.loewshotels/sandiego.com. 438 units. Doubles $319–$369. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V, JCB. Bus: 901. Map p 135.*

★ Manchester Grand Hyatt EMBARCADERO This twin-towered behemoth is adjacent to the Convention Center and Seaport Village shopping center, creating a neatly insular, if touristy, little world. *1 Market Place (Market St. at Harbor Dr.). ☎ 800/233-1234. www.manchestergrand.hyatt.com. 1,625 units. Doubles $299–$374. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Trolley: Orange Line to Seaport Village. Map p 133.*

★ Marriott San Diego Gaslamp Quarter GASLAMP QUARTER A massive renovation transformed this property into a stylish destination with a boutique feel. Check out the open-air bar on the 22nd floor. *660 K St. (between 6th and 7th aves.). ☎ 888/800-8118.*

www.sandiegogaslamphotel.com. 306 units. Doubles $259–$359 double. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 992. Trolley: Orange Line to Gaslamp Quarter. Map p 133.

★★ **Marriott San Diego Hotel & Marina** EMBARCADERO Convention goers are drawn to the scenic 446-slip marina, lush grounds, waterfall pool, and breathtaking bay-and-beyond views. *333 W. Harbor Dr. (at Front St.). ☎ 800/228-9290. www.marriott.com. 1,408 units. Doubles $215–$515. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Trolley: Orange Line to Convention Center. Map p 133.*

★★ **Omni San Diego Hotel** GASLAMP QUARTER This swank 32-story high-rise has lots of baseball memorabilia and a 4th-floor "skybridge" that connects it with PETCO Park. It's baseball fan heaven. *675 L St. (at 6th Ave.). ☎ 800/843-6664. www.omnihotels.com. 511 units. Doubles $299–$750. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 992. Trolley: Orange Line to Gaslamp Quarter. Map p 133.*

★ **Pacific Terrace Hotel** PACIFIC BEACH More upscale than most of the casual places nearby, this boardwalk hotel features a South Seas–meets–Spanish Colonial ambience. *610 Diamond St. (west of Mission Blvd.). ☎ 800/344-3370. www.pacificterrace.com. 73 units. Doubles $359–$444 w/breakfast. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 30. Map p 134.*

★★ kids **Paradise Point Resort & Spa** MISSION BAY Smack dab in the middle of Mission Bay, this hotel complex is almost as much a theme park as its closest neighbor, SeaWorld (a 3-min. drive). *1404 Vacation Rd. (off Ingraham St.). ☎ 800/344-2626. www.paradisepoint.com. 457 units. Doubles $329–$495. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 8 or 9. Map p 134.*

★ **Park Manor Suites** HILLCREST This eight-story property, built in 1926, occupies a prime corner overlooking Balboa Park; a few rooms have glassed-in terraces. *525 Spruce St. (between 5th and 6th aves.). ☎ 800/874-2649. www.parkmanorsuites.com. 74 units. Doubles $149–$189 w/breakfast. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 3 or 120. Map p 135.*

★★ **Tower 23** PACIFIC BEACH This modernist beach resort sits right alongside the boardwalk in Pacific Beach. *723 Felspar St. (west of Mission Blvd.). ☎ 866/869-3723. www.t23hotel.com. 44 units. Doubles $389–$469. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 8, 9, 27, or 30. Map p 134.*

Tower 23.

The US Grant.

★★★ **The US Grant** DOWNTOWN Built in 1910, this grandiose 11-story property is one of San Diego's most historic hotels. It reopened in 2006 following a 20-month, $52 million renovation. ***326 Broadway (between 3rd and 4th aves., main entrance on 4th Ave.). ☎ 800/237-5029. www.usgrant.net. 270 units. Doubles $249–$549. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 2, 3, 120, 992, and all Broadway routes. Trolley: Orange or Blue Line to Civic Center. Map p 133.***

★★ **W San Diego** DOWNTOWN There's an adventurous restaurant, lively nightspots, and accommodations that are bright and cheery—like mod beach cabanas. ***421 W. B St. (at State St.). ☎ 888/625-5144. www.whotels.com/sandiego. 259 units. Doubles $349–$469. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 30, 50, 150, 810, or 820. Trolley: Blue or Orange Line to America Plaza. Map p 133.***

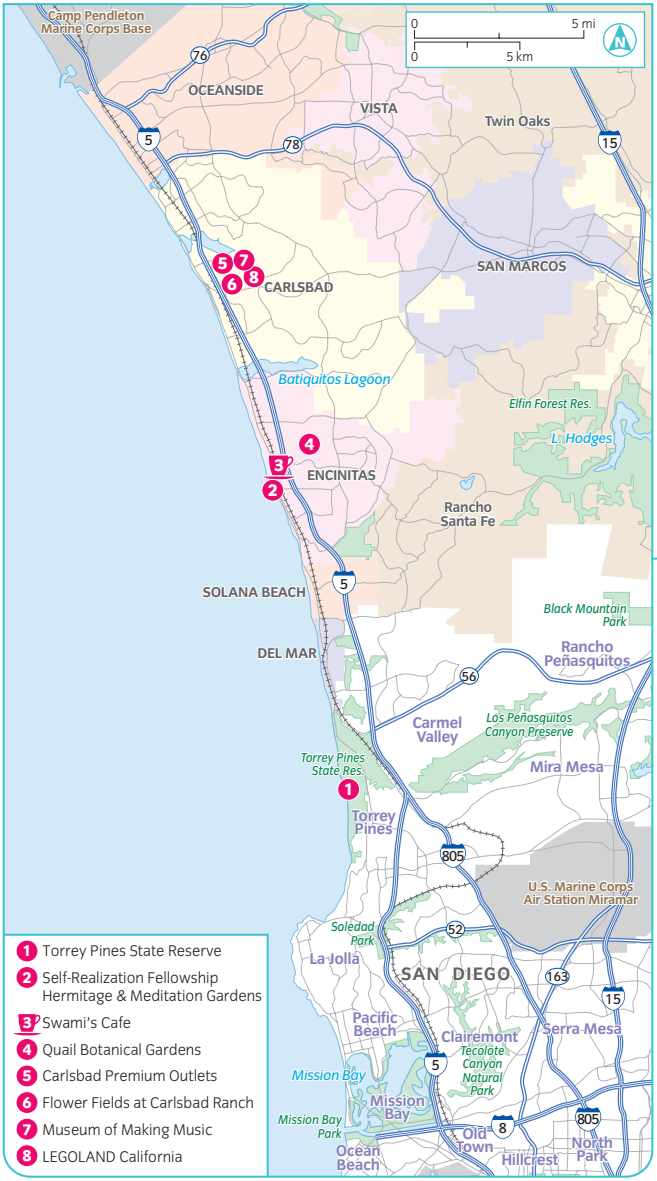
W San Diego.

★★ **Wave Crest** DEL MAR On a bluff overlooking the Pacific, these gray-shingled bungalow condominiums are beautifully maintained and wonderfully private. ***1400 Ocean Ave. (at 15th St.). ☎ 858/755-0100. www.wavecrestresort.com. 31 units. Studios $195–$260. MC, V. Bus: 101. Map p 135.***

★★ **The Westgate Hotel** DOWNTOWN With its regal and lavish decor, this is about as "old world" as San Diego gets. It's a hub of cultural and culinary activities as well. ***1055 Second Ave. (between Broadway and C St.). ☎ 800/522-1564. www.westgatehotel.com. 223 units. Doubles $340–$435. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 2, 7, 923, 929, and all Broadway routes. Trolley: Blue or Orange Line to Civic Center. Map p 133.***

10 The Best **Day Trips**

North County



Carlsbad Ranch in bloom.

Don't be fooled by the laidback, surf-dude ethic that prevails amid the string of picturesque coastal communities north of La Jolla. For decades, the area's slower pace and stunning physical beauty have attracted serious and accomplished artists, writers, celebrities, spiritualists, and others who could afford a piece of coastal solitude. The result is a casual sophistication and territorial pride that distinguishes this region from the county's lower reaches.

START: Del Mar is 18 miles (29km) north of downtown San Diego, Carlsbad about 33 miles (53km), and Oceanside approximately 36 miles (58km). If you're driving, follow I-5 north; Del Mar, Solana Beach, Encinitas, Carlsbad, and Oceanside all have freeway exits. The northernmost point, Oceanside, will take about 45 minutes. The other choice by car is to wander up the old coast road, known as Camino del Mar, "PCH" (Pacific Coast Highway), Old Highway 101, and County Highway S21. The Breeze 101 bus route traverses 101 from La Jolla to Oceanside. From San Diego, the Coaster commuter train provides service to Solana Beach, Encinitas, Carlsbad, and Oceanside, and Amtrak stops in Solana Beach and Oceanside. The Coaster makes the trip a number of times (6:30am–7pm) on weekdays, four times on Saturday; Amtrak passes through about 11 times daily each way. Call ☎ 619/685-4900 for transit information or check with Amtrak (☎ 800/872-7245 or www.amtrak.com). If you are driving, beware of rush-hour traffic.

1 ★★★ Torrey Pines State Reserve. Simply one of the most breathtaking locations in San Diego County, this forest is home to the gnarled little evergreen that's the rarest native pine in North America. See p 87.

2 ★★ Self-Realization Fellowship Hermitage and Meditation Gardens. Paramahansa Yogananda, a guru born and educated in India, opened this retreat with the exotic lotus domes in 1937. He lived for many years in the Hermitage and today the site serves as a spiritual sanctuary for his followers. The gift shop sells distinctive arts and crafts from India; the serene meditation gardens offer spectacular ocean views and are a terrific place to cool off on a hot day (and no disciples will give you a sales pitch). 🕘 *45 min. 215 W. K St. (off S. Coast Hwy. 101). ☎ 760/753-2888. www.yogananda-srf.org. Free admission. Tues–Sat 9am–5pm, Sun 11am–5pm (Hermitage open Sun 2–5pm).*

Torrey Pines State Reserve.

3 ★ Swami's Cafe. Locals crowd into this casual eatery for tasty, health-conscious breakfasts and lunch. It gets its name from the legendary surf spot across the highway, which in turn was named for the yogi's retreat on the clifftop. *1163 S. Coast Hwy. 101 (at W. K St.). ☎ 760/944-0612. Daily 7am–4pm. $.*

A hang glider over Torrey Pines.

4 ★★ Quail Botanical Gardens. Featuring 35 acres (14 hectares) of California natives, exotic tropicals, palms, bamboo, cacti, Mediterranean, Australian, and other unusual collections, this serene compound is crisscrossed with scenic walkways and trails. There's also a gift shop and nursery, and a variety of special events and classes are scheduled throughout the year. ***90 min. 230 Quail Gardens Dr. (off Encinitas Blvd.). 760/436-3036. www.qbgardens.com. Admission $10 adults, $7 seniors and military, $5 children 3–12, free for children under 3, free admission the first Tues of the month. Daily 9am–5pm. Guided tours Sat at 10am.***

Legoland Tower

5 ★★ Carlsbad Premium Outlets. From Adidas to Swarovski, some of the biggest names in fashion and retail are elbow to elbow here. This smart, upscale outlet mall features some 90 stores—everything from soup (Le Gourmet Chef) to nuts (Sweet Factory). It even has a fine-dining component, Bellefleur Winery & Restaurant, anchoring one end of the center. ***2 hr. 5620 Paseo del Norte (off Palomar Airport Rd.). 888/790-7467. www.premiumoutlets.com. Daily 10am–8pm.***

6 ★ Flower Fields at Carlsbad Ranch. One of the most arresting sights in North

Grape Escape

Over the line in Riverside County, 60 miles (97km) north of San Diego via I-15, is the wine country of Temecula (pronounced "ta-*meck*-you-la"). Some believe Franciscan friars planted the first grapevines here in the early 1800s, and there are now 20-plus wineries in the region (most are along Rancho California Road). Harvest time is generally from mid-August to September, but visitors are invited year-round to tour, taste, and stock up. For more information contact the Temecula Valley Winegrowers Association (☎ 800/801-9463; www.temeculawines.org) or the Temecula Valley Chamber of Commerce (☎ 866/676-5090; www.temecula.org), which can provide information on accommodations, golf, fishing, and the Temecula Valley Balloon & Wine Festival, held in June.

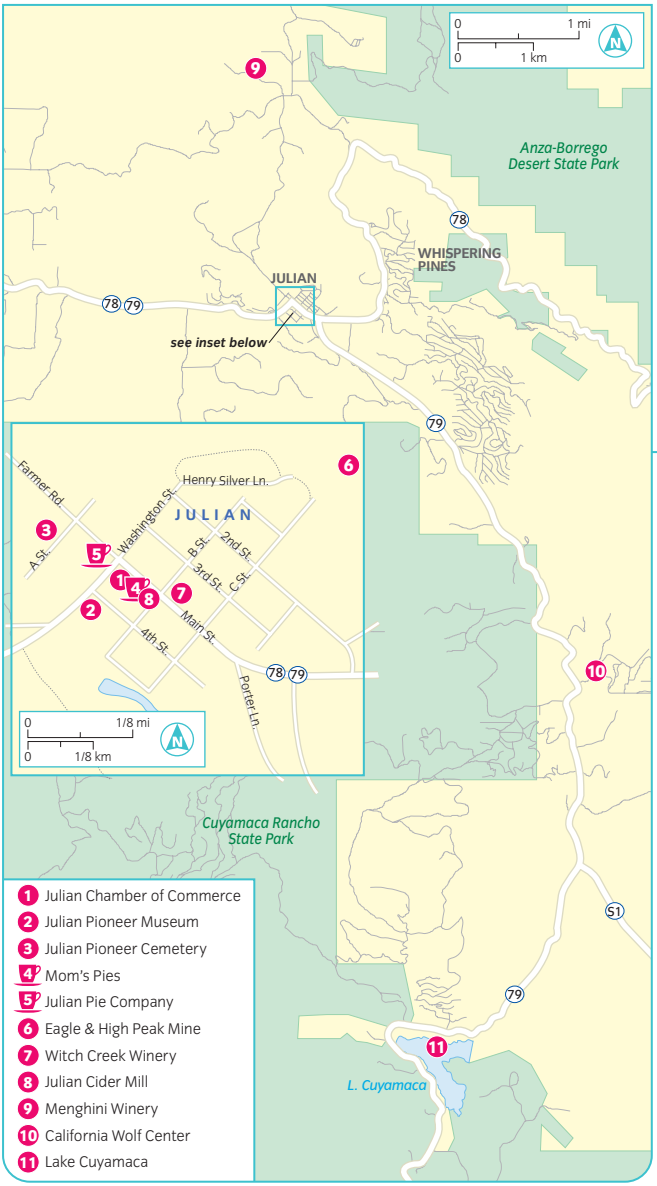
County is the blossoming sea of giant ranunculuses that occurs every March to mid-May. It creates a striped blanket of color covering some 50 acres (20 hectares). Visitors are welcome to tour the grounds and enjoy special floral installations. This is a working nursery the rest of the year. 🕘 *1 hr. 5704 Paseo del Norte (off Palomar Airport Rd.). ☎ 760/431-0352. www.theflowerfields.com. Admission $9 adults, $8 seniors, $5 children 3–10. In season, daily 9am–6pm.*

7 ★ **Museum of Making Music.** Visitors go on a journey from Tin Pan Alley to MTV, stopping along the way to learn historic anecdotes about the American music industry and the instruments it created. There's an interactive portion where you can try your hand at playing drums, guitars, or a digital keyboard. 🕘 *1 hr. 5790 Armada Dr. (off Palomar Airport Rd.). ☎ 877/551-9976. www.museumofmakingmusic.org. Admission $5 adults, $3 children ages 4–18, seniors, students, and military. Tues–Sun 10am–5pm.*

8 ★ kids **LEGOLAND California.** A child's most important work is play, and that credo is vigorously pursued at LEGOLAND. See p 30, bullet 5.

A Lego car in Legoland.

Julian


0 1 mi
0 1 km
Anza-Borrego Desert State Park
WHISPERING PINES
JULIAN
see inset below
78
79
JULIAN
Henry Silver Ln.
Farmer Rd.
Washington St.
A St.
B St.
2nd St.
3rd St.
C St.
Main St.
4th St.
Porter Ln.
0 1/8 mi
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Cuyamaca Rancho State Park
S1
L. Cuyamaca
1 Julian Chamber of Commerce
2 Julian Pioneer Museum
3 Julian Pioneer Cemetery
4 Mom's Pies
5 Julian Pie Company
6 Eagle & High Peak Mine
7 Witch Creek Winery
8 Julian Cider Mill
9 Menghini Winery
10 California Wolf Center
11 Lake Cuyamaca

In October 2003, the devastating Cedar Fire virtually engulfed the historic mountain hamlet of Julian. Firefighters made a desperate stand to protect the town against what seemed insurmountable odds. For a few days it was touch-and-go, and 15 lives and some 800 homes in the surrounding hillsides were lost. But the central part of this Old West gold-mining town was saved, and today you can stand on Main Street without knowing a catastrophe visited just a few hundred yards away. Prospectors first ventured into these fertile hills (elevation 4,225 feet/1,288m) in search of gold in the late 1860s. Within 10 years, 18 mines were operating, producing up to an estimated $13 million worth of gold. After the rush played out, Julian (pop. 3,000) renewed its fame after striking another mother lode: apples. **START: Julian is not accessible via public transportation. You can make the 90-minute drive on Highway 78 or I-8 to Highway 79; try taking one route going and the other on the way back (Highway 79 winds through Rancho Cuyamaca State Park, while Highway 78 traverses open country and farmland). Weekend crowds can be heavy, especially during the fall apple harvest season.**

1 Julian Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber in the foyer of the creaky old Town Hall, built in 1913. Staffers here always have enthusiastic suggestions for local activities. Be sure to duck into the auditorium itself to check out the photos of Julian's bygone days. Main Street is only 6 blocks long, and shops, cafes, and some lodgings are on it or a block away. Town maps and accommodations fliers are available on the Town Hall porch. Public restrooms are behind the building. *2129 Main St. (at Washington St.). ☎ 760/765-1857. www.julianca.com. Daily 10am–4pm.*

2 Julian Pioneer Museum. This small museum is dedicated to illuminating the life and times of Julian's townspeople from 1869 to 1913. It exhibts clothing, tools, gold-mining equipment, household and military items, and a fine

A horse-drawn carriage in the streets of Julian.

The Julian Pioneer Museum.

collection of lace doilies, quilts, and scarves. Look out back for the Julian Transportation Garage museum, with its vintage machinery and vehicles. 🕘 *30 min. 2811 Washington St. (south of 4th St.).* ☎ *760/765-0227. $3 donation requested. Apr–Nov, Wed–Sun, 10am–4pm; weekends 10am–4pm the rest of the year.*

3 ★ Julian Pioneer Cemetery. This small, hillside graveyard is straight out of *Our Town*. Julian's citizens have been laid to rest here since 1870, when the only way to deliver caskets to the gravesite was to carry them up the long, stone staircase in front. If you don't want to huff and puff up the stairs (just imagine carrying a casket), there's now a parking lot behind the cemetery that provides easy access. 🕘 *20 min. A St. (at Farmer Rd).*

4 You've waited long enough—it's time for some pie. You can observe the mom-on-duty rolling crust and crimping edges at **★★ Mom's Pies** (2119 Main St.; ☎ 760/765-2472; www.momspiesjulian.com; $). The shop routinely bakes several varieties of apple pie and will, with advance notice, whip up any one of a number of specialties. *Mon–Fri, 8am–5pm; weekends 8am–6pm.*

5 ★★ Julian Pie Company (2225 Main St.; ☎ 760/765-2449; www.julianpie.com; $) has outdoor seating where overhanging apples are literally up for grabs. Among its specialties is a no-sugar-added pie; light lunches of soup and sandwiches are also available. *Daily 9am–5pm. Lunch 11am–2pm.*

6 ★ kids Eagle and High Peak Mine. Although it's seemingly a tourist trap, this mine, which dates from around 1870, affords an interesting and educational look at the town's one-time economic mainstay. Tours take you underground to the 1,000-foot (305m) hard-rock tunnel to see the mining and milling process; antique engines and authentic tools are on display. 🕘 *1 hr. End of C St. (at Old Miner's Trail).* ☎ *760/765-0036. $10 adults, $5 children 6–16, $1 for children under 6. Hour-long tours are usually given beginning at 10am, but hours vary so it's best to call ahead.*

7 Witch Creek Winery. There are a handful of wineries in the Julian area, but this is the only wine-tasting operation right in town. What it lacks in ambience, it makes up for in convenience and friendliness. *2100 Main St. (between B and*

C sts.). ☎ 760/765-2023. www.witchcreekwinery.com. Daily 11am–5pm.

8 ★★ **Julian Cider Mill.** You can see cider presses at work here October through March. It offers free tastes of the fresh nectar, and jugs to take home. Throughout the year, the mill also carries the area's widest selection of food products, from apple butters and jams to berry preserves, several varieties of local honey, candies, and other goodies. 🕘 *30 min. 2103 Main St. (at B St.). ☎ 760/765-1430. Mon–Thurs 9:30am–5pm, Fri–Sun 9:30am–5:30pm.*

9 ★★ **Menghini Winery.** The rustic facilities and rolling picnic grounds of this winery make it a popular spot for wine tasting as well as special events such as the annual Grape Stomp Festa and Menghini Arts and Music Festival in September, and the Apple Days Festival in October. It's located about 3 miles (5km) out of town. 🕘 *1 hr. 1150 Julian Orchards Dr. (at Wynola Rd.). ☎ 760/765-2072. Mon–Fri 10am–4pm, Sat–Sun 10am–5pm.*

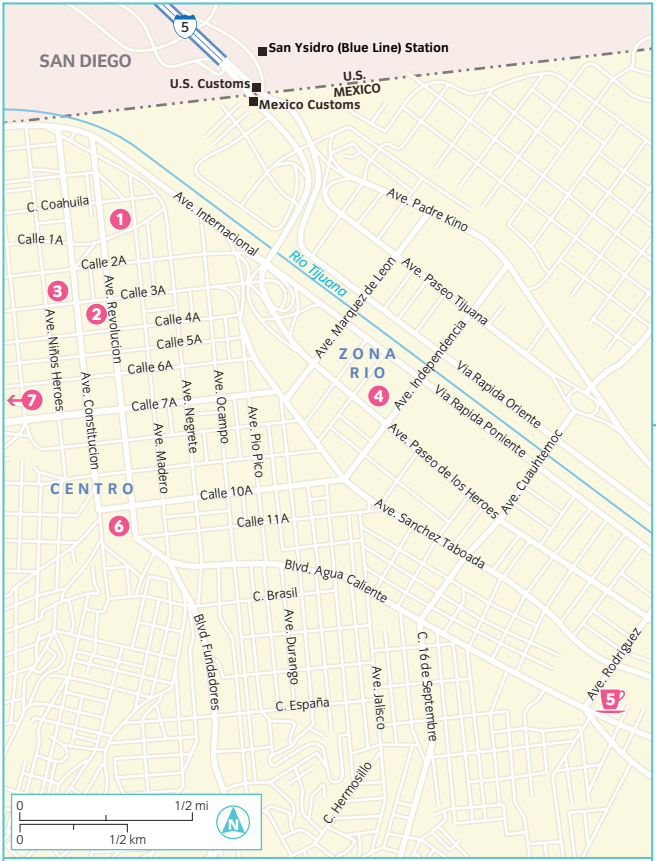
10 ★★ kids **California Wolf Center.** Animal lovers should look into this education and conservation center, located about 4 miles (6.5km) from town, where you can learn about wolves and visit with the resident wolf pack. Reservations required. 🕘 *1 hr. 18457 Hwy. 79 (at KQ Ranch Campground, look for Wolf Center sign). ☎ 760/765-0030. www.californiawolfcenter.org. $10 adults, $7 seniors, $6 kids. Sat at 2pm; private tours can be arranged during the week ($25 per person).*

11 ★ kids **Lake Cuyamaca.** Eight miles (13km) south of Julian this 110-acre (45-hectare) lake offers boating, fishing, and camping. Anglers try for bass, catfish, crappie, bluegill, and trout (stocked year-round). There's also a general store and restaurant at the lake's edge. *15027 Hwy. 79 (between Milk Ranch and Wolahi rds.). ☎ 877/581-9904. www.lakecuyamaca.org. Fishing fee $6 per day, $3.50 per day for ages 8–15, free for children under 8. A California fishing license is required and sold here: $12 per day, $37 per year. Rowboats $15 per day, motorboat $40 per day ($30 after 1pm), canoes and paddleboats (summer only) $10 per hour. Daily 6am–sunset (weather permitting); Dec–Jan, closed Wed and Sun till noon.*

You're never far from first-rate apple pie in Julian.

Julian's most famous product, fresh from the oven.

Tijuana



1. Museo de Cera (Wax Museum)
2. Caliente Race & Sports Book
3. Palacio de la Cultura
4. Centro Cultural Tijuana
5. Tepoznieves
6. L.A. Cetto Winery
7. Playas de Tijuana

Vibrant, chaotic, colorful, and confounding, Tijuana is Mexico's fourth largest city and just a 20-minute drive from downtown San Diego. With a population of more than two million, it's the West Coast's second largest city, trumped only by Los Angeles. "T.J.," as San Diegans call it, was little more than a village at the turn of the 20th century, but it grew explosively in response to the needs of San Diego and the rest of California, providing a workforce for factories and fields, especially during World War II. It also offered succor, becoming a decadent playground for Americans deprived of booze and gambling by Prohibition and moral reformers. The city's economic engine now hums along, driven by free-trade policies that gave rise to the foreign-owned factories known as *maquiladoras.* Tijuana's urban landscape isn't attractive, but its beauty lies within its fabulous restaurants, burgeoning art and music scene, plentiful shopping opportunities, and legendary nightlife. **START: Take the Blue Line trolley to San Ysidro (it's the last stop). From the trolley, cross the street and head up the ramp that accesses the border-crossing bridge.**

1 Museo de Cera (Wax Museum). This creepy sideshow is filled with characters from Mexican history and lore, and includes a few incongruous figures such as Bill Clinton and Whoopi Goldberg. And despite her wax likeness here, there was no kindly rancho matriarch named Tía Juana (aunt Jane) for whom the city was named. Tijuana derives its name from *tycuan,* an indigenous word meaning "near the water," a reference to a broad, shallow river that is now little more than a trickle (except during storms) running down a concrete wash. ***8281 Calle 1 (between aves. Revolución and Maderas).*** ☎ ***664/688-2478. Admission $1.60. Daily 10am–6pm.***

2 Caliente Race & Sports Book. Opened in 2006, this attractive, flagstone-fronted space has all the bells and whistles of a Vegas sports book. You can bet on international sporting events including NFL, NBA, and soccer games; there's also electronic gaming. About a 10-minute cab ride away is Hipódromo Caliente (Caliente Racetrack), at Blv. Agua Caliente and Tapachula (☎ 664/633-7300), where there's daily greyhound

Caliente Race & Sports Book.

Crossing the World's Busiest International Border

As of January 1, 2008, a valid U.S. passport is required for all land arrivals, as well as air and sea arrivals; non–U.S. citizens need a passport, an I-94, a multiple-entry visa, or a Resident Alien Card to return to the U.S. Waits of up to 2 hours are not uncommon when crossing back to the U.S.

If you walk across to Mexico, the first structure you'll see on your left is a Visitor Information Center (☎ 664/607-3097), open daily 9am to 6pm. They have maps, safety tips, and brochures that cover the city's highlights. There's also an information booth on the east side of Avenue Revolución at Third. The Tijuana Convention & Visitors Bureau (☎ 664/684-0537; www.tijuanaonline.org) is across the street from the Centro Cultural, Paseo de los Héroes 9365, Suite 201. It's open Monday to Friday 9am to 6pm. For English-speaking tourist assistance, dial ☎ 078. When calling numbers from the U.S., dial 011-52 then the 10-digit number.

English is widely spoken and dollars are accepted just about everywhere; Visa and MasterCard are accepted in many places, but never assume they will be—ask before dining or purchasing. You're permitted to bring $800 worth of purchases back across the border duty-free, including 1 liter of alcohol per person (for adults 21 and older). You can also bring back about a month's supply (50 dosages) of any medicine that requires a prescription in the U.S. Possession of illegal drugs or firearms is a very serious offense in Mexico.

The following countries have consulate offices in Tijuana: the United States (☎ 664/622-7400), Canada (☎ 664/684-0461), and the United Kingdom (☎ 664/681-7323).

racing (Mon, Wed–Fri at 7:45pm; Sat–Sun at 1pm; Tues at 2pm and 7:45pm) and another sports book. ***Ave. Revolución at Calle 4. ☎ 664/688-3425. www.caliente.com.mx. Hours vary but usually daily 11am–midnight.***

3 ★ Palacio de la Cultura. This large gallery complex opened in late 2006. Showcasing the work of local artists, it's set in the Antigua Palacio Municipal, which served as a seat of government from 1921 to 1986, and is one of the area's few remaining historical buildings. This is a great side trip off touristy Revolución—adjacent are the

A Tijuana horse farm.

A street vendor.

Cathedral and Mercado el Popo, a quintessentially Mexican marketplace selling nuts, candy, and produce. 🕘 ***1 hr. Calle 2 at Ave. Constitución.*** ☎ ***664/687-687-1391 www.imactijuana.com. Free admission. Hours vary but usually daily 10am–6pm.***

4 ★★ Centro Cultural Tijuana. A short cab ride away in the Zona Río is Tijuana's cultural icon, which opened in 1982. You'll easily spot the ultramodern complex with its gigantic, sand-colored sphere that houses an IMAX Dome Theater (some English-language films on weekends). CECUT also has a museum that covers the history of Tijuana and Baja, from pre-Hispanic times through the modern era (descriptions are in both Spanish and English); there is also a gallery for visiting exhibits. Music, theater, and dance performances are held in the center's acoustically excellent concert hall; and there's a cafe and a great museum bookshop. At press time, CECUT was working to complete a new wing that is expected to host major traveling art shows. ***Paseo de los Héroes, at Ave. Independencia.*** ☎ ***664/687-9600. www.cecut.gob.mx. Museum admission $2.20; IMAX tickets $4.50 adults, $2.50 children. Tues–Sun 10am–6pm; extended hours for films and special events.***

5 ★ Tepoznieves. In the heart of town you'll find this unique ice-cream parlor. It serves up flavors that are sure to intrigue and delight, like *nardos,* concocted from the tangy tuberose flower; *nopal,* made from cactus; or *petalo de rosas* (rose petals). ***Blvd. Sánchez Taboada 4002 (at Ave. Rodriguez).*** ☎ ***664/634-6532. $.***

Travel Tip

Tijuana's shopping and nightlife district, Avenida Revolución, is a $5 taxi ride from the border, or you can walk the mile (.6km) into the tourist area. The trolley takes about 40 minutes from downtown San Diego; the one-way fare is $2.50. The last trolley to San Ysidro departs downtown around midnight (1am on Sat); the last returning trolley from San Ysidro is at 1am (2am on Sat). Unless you plan to drive farther into Mexico, it's best to park your car on the U.S. side and walk across. Taxis are cheap, plentiful, and safe in Tijuana (you will need to negotiate a price with cab drivers; the white taxis with red stripes are metered and a better deal). If you do drive, take I-5 south. We highly recommend that you purchase Mexican auto insurance north of the border.

Street musicians.

6 ★★ L.A. Cetto Winery (Cava de Vinos). This barrel-shaped winery and visitor center provides an introduction to the Mexican wine industry. The Valle de Guadalupe, a fertile region southeast of Tijuana, produces most of Mexico's wine, and many high-quality vintages are exported to Europe; most are unavailable in the United States. L.A. Cetto also sells fine tequila, brandy, olive oil, and more. ***1 hr. Ave. Cañón Johnson 2108 (at Ave. Constitución Sur). 664/685-3031. www.cettowines.com. Admission $2 for tour and tasting (18 and over; under 18 are admitted free with an adult but cannot taste the wines), $5 with souvenir wine glass. Mon–Fri 10am–6:30pm, Sat 10am–5pm.***

7 ★★ Playas de Tijuana. This large, sandy beach is popular with families. It features a line of ramshackle restaurants and cafes sitting on a bluff overlooking the surf, offering great spots for lunch and a cold beer. A stone's throw away is the bullring-by-the-sea known as Plaza Monumental. Perhaps the most notable thing here, though, is the imposing, rusting fence of unevenly spaced girders of different heights that disappears into the ocean, dividing the U.S. and Mexico. It provides a stark contrast to the laughing children splashing in the water next to it. ***About 6 miles (9.5km) west of the Zona Centro, off the scenic toll road that heads toward Rosarito and Ensenada (but before you reach the first toll booth).***

Tijuana Safety Alert

Violence has risen dramatically in Tijuana, mostly due to the presence of organized crime—but tourists are not the targets. There is petty crime, too, so observe the same precautions as in any large city: Don't flash a lot of cash or expensive jewelry, and stick to populated areas. *Mordida,* "the bite," is also still known to occur. That's when uniformed police officers extort money in exchange for letting you off some infraction, like a traffic ticket. If you do find yourself dealing with an official, never offer a bribe—you may find yourself in much more trouble than you bargained for. And if you do meet up with corruption, you have little recourse but to comply, and then report the incident to your consulate.

The Savvy Traveler

Before You Go

Tourist Offices

Contact the **San Diego Convention & Visitor's Bureau** (2215 India St., San Diego, CA 92101, mailing address only; ☎ 619/232-3101; www.sandiego.org). The *Visitors Planning Guide* features excellent maps and information on accommodations, activities, and attractions. The *San Diego Travel Values* insert is full of discount coupons for hotels at all price levels, restaurants, attractions, cultural and recreational activities, and tours. It's available online, too. Convis' **International Visitor Information Center** (☎ 619/236-1212; www.sandiego.org) is on the Embarcadero at 1040⅓ W. Broadway, at Harbor Drive. Daily summer hours are from 9am to 5pm; for the remainder of the year it's open daily 9am to 4pm. Convis also operates a walk-up–only facility at the **La Jolla Visitor Center,** 7966 Herschel Ave., near the corner of Prospect Street. This office is open daily in summer, from 10am until 7pm (until 6pm Sun); from September to May the center is open daily but with more limited hours. The **Mission Bay Visitor Information Center,** on 2688 E. Mission Bay Dr. (☎ 866/746-8440; www.infosandiego.com), is between Mission Bay and I-5, at the Clairemont Drive exit. This private facility books hotels and sells discounted admission tickets to a variety of attractions; hours are 9am to dusk. The **Coronado Visitors Center** (1100 Orange Ave.; ☎ 619/437-8788; www.coronadovisitors.com) dispenses maps, newsletters, and information-packed brochures. Inside the Coronado Museum, they're open Monday through Friday 9am to 5pm, Saturday 10am to 5pm, and Sunday from 11am to 4pm. **The San Diego North Convention and Visitors Bureau** (☎ 800/848-3336; www.sandiegonorth.com) can answer your questions about **North County** as well as the **Anza-Borrego Desert.** For more information about Del Mar, contact or visit the **Del Mar Regional Chamber of Commerce Visitor Information Center,** 1104 Camino del Mar (☎ 858/755-4844; www.delmarchamber.org), which distributes a detailed folding map of the area. The hours of operation vary, but usually approximate weekday business hours. There's also a city-run website at www.delmar.ca.us. The **Solana Beach Visitor Center** is near the train station at 103 N. Cedros Ave. (☎ 858/350-6006; www.solanabeachchamber.com). The **Encinitas Visitors Center** is in a nondescript shopping mall immediately west of the I-5, at 138 Encinitas Blvd. (☎ 800/953-6041; www.encinitaschamber.com). The **Carlsbad Visitor Information Center** in the old Santa Fe Depot, 400 Carlsbad Village Dr. (☎ 800/227-5722; www.carlsbadca.org), has information on flower fields and nursery touring. **Oceanside's California Welcome Center,** 928 N. Coast Hwy. (☎ 800/350-7873; www.oceansidechamber.com), provides information on local attractions, dining, and accommodations.

Balboa Park by scooter.

The Best Times to Go

With its coastal setting, the city of San Diego maintains a moderate climate year-round. Although the temperature can change 20°F to 30°F between day and evening, it rarely reaches a point of extreme heat or cold; daytime highs above 100°F (38°C) are unusual, and times when

AVERAGE MONTHLY TEMPERATURES (°F & °C) & RAINFALL (IN.)

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
High (°F)	65	66	66	68	70	71	75	77	76	74	70	66
(°C)	18	19	19	20	21	21	24	25	25	23	21	19
Low (°F)	46	47	50	54	57	60	64	66	63	58	52	47
(°C)	8	9	10	12	14	15	17	19	17	15	10	8
Rainfall	2.1	1.4	1.6	0.8	0.2	1	0	0.1	0.2	0.3	1.1	1.4

the mercury drops below freezing can be counted in mere hours once or twice each year. San Diego receives very little precipitation (just 10 in./103cm of rainfall in an average year); what rain does fall comes primarily between November and April. Fall and spring are great times to be here; but beach bunnies should note that late spring and early summer tanning sessions are often compromised by a local phenomenon called **May Gray** and **June Gloom**—a layer of low-lying clouds or fog along the coast that doesn't burn off until noon (if at all) and returns before sunset. San Diego is busiest between Memorial Day and Labor Day; if you visit in summer, expect fully booked beachfront hotels and crowded parking lots. The only slow season is from Thanksgiving to early February.

Festivals & Special Events

SPRING. Wildflowers bloom in the desert between late February and the end of March, at **Anza-Borrego Desert State Park** (☎ 760/767-4205; www.parks.ca.gov). The peak of blooming lasts for a few weeks and timing varies from year to year, depending on the winter rainfall. The **San Diego Latino Film Festival** (☎ 619/230-1938; www.sdlatinofilm.com), held in mid-March, has grown to become one of the largest and most successful Latino film events in the country. More than 100 movies from throughout Latin America and the United States are shown, complemented by gala parties, seminars, a music series, and art exhibits. The **St. Patrick's Day Parade** (☎ 858/268-9111; www.stpatsparade.org) takes place the Saturday prior to March 17; it's followed by a festival in Balboa Park. The **Flower Fields at Carlsbad Ranch** (☎ 760/431-0352; www.theflowerfields.com) provide one of the most spectacular sights in North County: the yearly blossoming of a gigantic sea of bright ranunculuses during March and April. Visitors are welcome to view and tour the fields. **ArtWalk** (☎ 619/615-1090; www.artwalkinfo.com) is the largest art event in the San Diego/Tijuana region, showcasing hundreds of visual and performing artists. It takes place along the streets of Little Italy in late April. Held the weekend closest to May 5, **Fiesta Cinco de Mayo** (☎ 619/260-1700; www.fiestacincodemayo.com) commemorates the 1862 triumph of Mexican soldiers over the French. The festivities include a battle re-enactment, mariachi music, and margaritas galore.

SUMMER. The **Rock 'n' Roll Marathon** (☎ 800/311-1255; www.rnrmarathon.com) in early June offers runners a unique course through Balboa Park, downtown, and around Mission Bay, and pumps them (and spectators) up with live bands on 26 stages along the course. There is a pre-race fitness expo and post-race concert, featuring big-name talent. Annually, the

biggest local event is the **San Diego County Fair** (☎ 858/793-5555; www.sdfair.com), mid-June to early July. Livestock competitions, thrill rides, flower-and-garden shows, gem and mineral exhibits, food and crafts booths, carnival games, and home arts exhibits dominate the event. There are also grandstand concerts by name performers. The **World Championship Over-the-Line Tournament** (☎ 619/688-0817; www.ombac.org) in mid-July is a San Diego original. It's a beach softball event renowned for boisterous, beer-soaked, anything-goes behavior. The **San Diego Lesbian and Gay Pride Parade, Rally, and Festival** (☎ 619/297-7683; www.sdpride.org), held the third or fourth weekend in July, is one of San Diego's biggest draws. It begins Friday night with a rally in Balboa Park, reconvenes at 11am on Saturday for the parade through Hillcrest, followed by a massive 2-day festival in the park. The "turf meets the surf" in Del Mar during the **thoroughbred racing season** at the Del Mar Race Track (☎ 858/792-4242; www.dmtc.com). The ponies run mid-July to early September. Upward of 60,000 people attend America's largest comic-book convention, **Comic-Con International** (☎ 619/491-2475; www.comic-con.org), each late July. It's a long weekend of auctions, dealers, autographs, and seminars focusing on graphic novels, fantasy, and sci-fi movies. In late July and early August, the **Acura Classic** (☎ 760/438-5683; www.acuraclassic.com) gathers the greatest female tennis players in the world at the La Costa Resort & Spa. **La Jolla SummerFest** (☎ 858/459-3728; www.ljms.org) is perhaps San Diego's most prestigious annual music event. It features a wide spectrum of classical and contemporary music, with guest composers and musicians ranging from the likes of Chick Corea to Yo-Yo Ma. SummerFest also offers master classes, open rehearsals, and workshops.

FALL. The country's largest rough-water swimming competition, the **La Jolla Rough Water Swim** (☎ 858/456-2100; www.ljrws.com) began in 1916. It takes place the Sunday after Labor Day at La Jolla Cove. Up in the mountain town of Julian (☎ 760/765-1857; www.julianca.com), the **fall apple harvest** from mid-September to mid-November draws big crowds. Every weekend local artisans display their wares, and there's plenty of cider and apple pie, plus entertainment and brilliant fall foliage. **Fleet Week** (☎ 800/353-3893; www.fleetweeksandiego.org) is a bit of a misnomer. It's the nation's largest military appreciation event and it lasts the entire month of October. It includes Navy ship tours, a college football game, an auto race of classic speedsters, and the renowned Miramar Air Show. More than 20 bands from around North America and beyond perform at the **San Diego Thanksgiving Dixieland Jazz Festival** (☎ 619/297-5277; www.dixielandjazzfestival.org). This annual festival is held over the long Thanksgiving weekend and features vintage jazz sounds like ragtime, swing, and, of course, pure New Orleans Dixieland.

WINTER. During the first Friday and Saturday nights of December, San Diego's fine urban park is decked out in holiday splendor for **Balboa Park December Nights** (☎ 619/239-0512; www.balboapark.org). There's a candlelight procession, caroling, entertainment, and ethnic food; park museums are all free, too. **Whale-watching season** begins in mid-December and continues until about mid-March, as more than 25,000 Pacific gray whales

make the trek from the chilly Alaskan seas to the warm-water breeding lagoons of Baja California, and then back again. There are a variety of ways to witness the procession, from both land and sea (www.sandiego.org). San Diego is home to two college football bowl games: the **Holiday Bowl** (☎ 619/283-5808; www.holidaybowl.com) and the **Poinsettia Bowl** (☎ 619/285-5061; www.poinsettiabowl.net), both held in late December. The Holiday Bowl pits top teams from the Pac 10 and Big 12 Conferences; the Poinsettia Bowl pits a team from the Mountain West Conference against an at-large opponent. The Holiday Bowl features several special events, including the nation's biggest balloon parade of giant inflatable characters. The PGA Tour's **Buick Invitational** (☎ 800/888-2842; www.buickinvitational.com) in late January features 150 of the finest professional golfers in the world. An annual event since 1952, it draws more than 100,000 spectators to Torrey Pines Golf Course. **Mardi Gras in the Gaslamp Quarter** (☎ 619/233-5227; www.gaslamp.org) is the largest Mardi Gras party on the West Coast. The celebration of "Fat Tuesday" features a Mardi Gras parade and an outdoor celebration in downtown's historic Gaslamp Quarter.

Useful Websites

- **www.sandiego.org** is maintained by the San Diego Convention & Visitors Bureau and includes up-to-date weather data, a calendar of events, and a hotel booking engine.
- **www.sandiegoartandsol.com** is the link for cultural tourism. You'll find a list of art shows and music events, plus intriguing touring itineraries that delve into the city's culture.
- **www.sandiego-online.com**, the *San Diego Magazine* website, offers abbreviated stories and dining and events listings.
- **www.sdreader.com**, the site of the free weekly *San Diego Reader,* is a great resource for club and show listings. It has printable dining and other coupons you can really use, plus arts, eats, and entertainment critiques.
- **www.signonsandiego.com** is where CitySearch teams up with the *San Diego Union-Tribune,* catering as much to locals as to visitors. It offers plenty of helpful links, plus reviews of restaurants, music, movies, performing arts, museums, outdoor recreation, beaches, and sports.
- **www.gosddowntown.com** is SignOnSanDiego's Gaslamp Quarter site, offering information on downtown events, restaurants, nightlife, and shopping.
- **www.digitalcity.com/sandiego** is a lifestyle guide targeted at locals, and therefore yields occasional off-the-beaten-tourist-path recommendations. You'll find everything from personal ads to constantly changing restaurant spotlights and daily top picks.
- **www.wheresd.com** provides information on arts, culture, special events, shopping, and dining for San Diego, Orange County, and Los Angeles. You can also make hotel reservations through the site.
- **www.voiceofsandiego.org** is an excellent online news source that offers sober information on what's happening in the city politically and culturally.
- **www.blogsandiego.com** is a hip spot for local music reviews and previews, and other musings from the cultural underground.

Getting There

By Plane

San Diego International Airport (☎ 619/231-2100; www.san.org), also known as Lindbergh Field (airport code: SAN), is just 2 miles (3km) northwest of downtown San Diego. It isn't a connecting hub for domestic airlines, and most international travel arrives via Los Angeles or points east. Planes land at Terminal 1 or 2, though most flights to and from Southern California airports use the Commuter Terminal, a half-mile (.8km) away; the Airport Flyer ("red bus") provides free service from the main airport to the Commuter Terminal, or there's a footpath. General **information desks** with visitor materials, maps, and other services are near the baggage claim areas of both Terminal 1 and 2. You can exchange foreign currency at **Travelex America** (☎ 619/295-1501; www.travelexusa.com) in Terminal 1 across from the United Airlines ticket counter, or in Terminal 2 on the second level (*inside* the security area, near the gates). **Hotel reservation** and **car-rental courtesy phones** are in the baggage-claim areas of Terminal 1 and 2. Major airlines flying into San Diego include **AeroMéxico** (☎ 800/237-6639; www.aeromexico.com), **Air Canada** (☎ 888/247-2262; www.aircanada.com), **Alaska Airlines** (☎ 800/252-7522; www.alaskaair.com), **Aloha Airlines** (☎ 800/367-5250; www.alohaairlines.com), **America West** (☎ 800/235-9292; www.americawest.com), **American Airlines** (☎ 800/433-7300; www.aa.com), **Continental Airlines** (☎ 800/525-0280; www.continental.com), **Delta Airlines** (☎ 800/221-1212; www.delta.com), **Express Jet** (☎ 888/958-9538; www.xjet.com), **Frontier Airlines** (☎ 800/432-1359; www.frontierairlines.com), **Hawaiian Airlines** (☎ 800/367-5320; www.hawaiianair.com), **JetBlue** (☎ 800/538-2583; www.jetblue.com), **Midwest Airlines** (☎ 800/452-2022; www.midwestairlines.com), **Northwest Airlines** (☎ 800/225-2525; www.nwa.com), **Southwest Airlines** (☎ 800/435-9792; www.southwest.com), **Sun Country Airlines** (☎ 800/359-6786; www.suncountry.com), **United Airlines** (☎ 800/864-8331; www.ual.com), and **US Airways** (☎ 800/428-4322; www.usairways.com). The Commuter Terminal, a half-mile (.8km) from the main terminals, is used by regional carriers **American Eagle** and **United Express** and for connecting flights to Los Angeles (for flight info, contact the parent carriers).

By Bus & Train

Greyhound buses (☎ 800/231-2222; www.greyhound.com) from Los Angeles, Phoenix, Las Vegas, and other points in the southwest United States arrive at the station in downtown San Diego at 120 W. Broadway. Local buses stop in front and the San Diego Trolley line is nearby. San Diego's Santa Fe Station is at the west end of Broadway, on Kettner Boulevard between Pacific Highway and India Street, within a half-mile (.8km) of most downtown hotels and the Embarcadero. Taxis line up outside the main door, the trolley station is across the street, and a dozen local bus routes stop on Broadway or Pacific Highway.

The **Metropolitan Transit System** (☎ 619/233-3004; www.sdmts.com) operates the San Diego Transit Flyer—bus route no. 992—providing service between the airport and downtown San Diego, running along Broadway then down into the

Gaslamp Quarter along 4th and 5th avenues. Bus stops are at each of Lindbergh Field's three terminals. The one-way fare is $2.25, and exact change is required. Request a transfer if you're connecting to another bus or the San Diego Trolley route downtown. The ride takes about 15 minutes and buses come at 10- to 15-minute intervals.

By Taxi

Taxis line up outside both terminals, and the trip to a downtown location, usually a 10-minute ride, is about $10 (plus tip); budget $20 to $25 for Coronado or Mission Beach, and about $30 to $35 for La Jolla.

By Shuttle

Several airport shuttles run regularly from the airport to points around the city; you'll see designated pick-up areas outside each terminal. The fare is about $8 per person to downtown hotels; Mission Valley and Mission Beach hotels are $10 to $12; La Jolla and Coronado hotels are around $15 to $19. Rates to a residence are about double the above rates, for the first person. One company that serves all of San Diego County is **Cloud 9 Shuttle** (☎ 800/974-8885; www.cloud9shuttle.com).

By Car

If you're driving to downtown from the airport, take Harbor Drive south to Broadway, the main east–west thoroughfare, and turn left. To reach Hillcrest or Balboa Park, exit the airport toward I-5, and follow the signs for Laurel Street. To reach Mission Bay, take I-5 north to I-8 west. To reach La Jolla, take I-5 north to the La Jolla Parkway exit, bearing left onto Torrey Pines Road. Three main interstates lead into San Diego. **I-5** is the primary route from San Francisco, central California, and Los Angeles; it runs straight through downtown to the Tijuana border crossing. **I-8** cuts across California from points east like Phoenix, terminating just west of I-5 at Mission Bay. **I-15** leads from the deserts to the north through inland San Diego; as you enter Miramar, take **Highway 163** south to reach the central parts of the city.

Getting **Around**

By Car

Most downtown streets run one-way, in a grid pattern. However, outside downtown, canyons and bays often make streets indirect. Finding a parking space can be tricky in the Gaslamp Quarter, Old Town, Mission Beach, and La Jolla, but parking lots are often centrally located. Rush hour on the freeways is generally concentrated from 7 to 9am and 4:30 to 6pm (for up-to-the-minute traffic info, dial ☎ 511). A few things to note: San Diego's gas prices are often among the highest in the country; California has a seat-belt law for both drivers and passengers; and as of July 1, 2008, state law will require drivers to use hands-free cell phone technology. You may turn right at a red light after stopping unless a sign says otherwise; likewise, you can turn left on a red light from a one-way street onto another one-way street after coming to a full stop. Penalties in California for drunk driving are among the toughest in the country; the main beach arteries (Grand, Garnet, and Mission) sometimes have random checkpoints set up to catch impaired drivers. If you plan to drive

to Mexico, be sure to check with your insurance company at home to verify exactly the limits of your policy. Mexican car insurance is available from various agencies (visible to drivers heading into Mexico) on the U.S. side of the border.

All the major car-rental firms have an office at the airport and several have them in larger hotels. Some of the national companies include **Alamo** (☎ 800/462-5266; www.alamo.com), **Avis** (☎ 800/230-4898; www.avis.com), **Budget** (☎ 800/527-0700; www.budget.com), **Dollar** (☎ 800/800-3665; www.dollar.com), **Enterprise** (☎ 800/736-8222; www.enterprise.com), **Hertz** (☎ 800/654-3131; www.hertz.com), **National** (☎ 800/227-7368; www.nationalcar.com), and **Thrifty** (☎ 800/847-4389; www.thrifty.com). Some companies, including Avis, will allow their cars into Mexico as far as Ensenada, but other rental outfits won't allow you to drive south of the border.

By Bus

The **MTS Transit Store,** 102 Broadway at First Avenue (☎ 619/234-1060), dispenses multiday passes, tokens, timetables, maps, brochures, and lost-and-found information. It issues ID cards for seniors 60 and older, and for travelers with disabilities, all of whom pay $1 per ride. Request a copy of the useful brochure *San Diego Fun Places,* which details the city's most popular tourist attractions and the buses that will take you to them. The office is open Monday through Friday 9am to 5pm. Most bus **fares** are $2.25. Buses accept dollar bills and change, but drivers can't give change. Transfers must be used within 90 minutes, and you can return to where you started (meaning a quick round-trip might cost just the one-way fare). If transferring from the trolley, your validated ticket serves as a transfer onto the bus, good for up to 2 hours from validation. For assistance with route information from a living, breathing entity, call ☎ 619/233-3004. You can also view timetables, maps, and fares online at www.sdmts.com. There is also a downloadable version of *San Diego Fun Places.* If you know your route and just need schedule information—or automated answers to FAQs—call **Info Express** (☎ 619/685-4900) from any touch-tone phone, 24 hours a day.

By Trolley

The San Diego Trolley is great for visitors, particularly if you're staying downtown or plan to visit Tijuana. There are three routes. The **Blue Line** travels from the Mexican border (San Ysidro) north through downtown and Old Town, with some trolleys continuing into Mission Valley. The **Orange Line** runs from downtown east through Lemon Grove and El Cajon. The **Green Line** runs from Old Town through Mission Valley to Qualcomm Stadium, San Diego State University, and on to Santee. The trip to the border takes 40 minutes from downtown; from downtown to Old Town takes 10 to 15 minutes. Trolleys operate on a self-service fare-collection system; riders buy tickets from machines in stations before boarding. The machines list fares for each destination (ranging from $1.25 for anywhere within downtown, to $3 for the longest trips) and dispense change. Tickets are valid for 2 hours from the time of purchase, in any direction. Fare inspectors board trains at random to check tickets. A round-trip ticket is double the price, but is valid all day between the origination and destination points. The lines run every 15 minutes during the day and every 30 minutes at night; during peak weekday rush hours the Blue Line runs every

10 minutes. There is also expanded service to accommodate events at PETCO Park and Qualcomm Stadium. Trolleys stop at each station for only 30 seconds. To open the door for boarding, push the lighted green button; to open the door to exit the trolley, push the lighted white button. For recorded transit information, call ☎ 619/685-4900. To speak with a customer service representative, call ☎ 619/233-3004 (TTY/TDD 619/234-5005), daily from 5:30am to 8:30pm. For wheelchair lift info, call ☎ 619/595-4960. The trolley generally operates daily from 5am to about midnight; the Blue Line provides limited but additional service between Old Town and San Ysidro throughout the night from Saturday evening to Sunday morning; check the website at www.sdmts.com for details.

By Train

San Diego's express rail commuter service, the **Coaster,** travels between the downtown Santa Fe Depot station and the Oceanside Transit Center, with stops at Old Town, Sorrento Valley, Solana Beach, Encinitas, and Carlsbad. Fares range from $4 to $5.50 each way, depending on how far you go, and can be paid by credit card at vending machines at each station. Eligible seniors and riders with disabilities pay $2 to $2.75. The scenic trip between downtown San Diego and Oceanside takes 1 hour. Trains run Monday through Friday, from about 6:30am to 7pm, with four trains in each direction on Saturday; call ☎ 800/262-7837 or log on to www.sdmts.com for info. **Amtrak** (☎ 800/872-7245; www.amtrak.com) trains run between San Diego and downtown Los Angeles, about 11 times daily each way. Trains to Los Angeles depart from the Santa Fe Depot and stop in Solana Beach, Oceanside, San Juan Capistrano, Santa Ana, and Anaheim (Disneyland). Two trains per day also stop in San Clemente. The travel time from San Diego to Los Angeles is about 2 hours and 45 minutes (for comparison, driving time can be as little as 2 hr., or as much as 4 hr. during rush hour). A one-way ticket to Los Angeles is $32 to $45; a one-way ticket to Solana Beach is $10, to Oceanside $14, to San Juan Capistrano $17, and to Anaheim $23.

By Taxi

Rates are based on mileage and can add up quickly in sprawling San Diego—a trip from downtown to La Jolla will cost about $30 to $35. Other than in the Gaslamp Quarter after dark, taxis don't cruise the streets as they do in other cities, so you have to call ahead for quick pickup. Among the local companies are **Orange Cab** (☎ 619/291-3333), **San Diego Cab** (☎ 619/226-8294), and **Yellow Cab** (☎ 619/234-6161). The **Coronado Cab Company** (☎ 619/435-6211) serves Coronado.

By Ferry & Water Taxi

There's regularly scheduled ferry service between San Diego and Coronado (☎ 619/234-4111 for information). Ferries leave from the Broadway Pier (1050 N. Harbor Dr., at the intersection of Broadway) Sunday through Thursday on the hour from 9am to 9pm, and Friday and Saturday until 10pm. They return from the Ferry Landing in Coronado to the Broadway Pier Sunday through Thursday every hour on the half-hour from 9:30am to 9:30pm and Friday and Saturday until 10:30pm. The ride takes 15 minutes. The fare is $3 each way (50¢ extra if you bring a bike). Buy tickets at the Harbor Excursion kiosk on Broadway Pier or at the Ferry Landing in Coronado. Water taxis (☎ 619/235-8294) will pick you up from any dock around San Diego

Bay, and operate Monday through Friday from 2 to 10pm, on weekends, and in summer from 11am to 11pm. If you're staying in a downtown hotel, this is a great way to get to Coronado. Boats are sometimes available at the spur of the moment, but reservations are advised. Fares are $7 per person to most locations.

By Bicycle

San Diego is ideal for exploration by bicycle, and many roads have designated bike lanes. Bikes are available for rent in most areas. San Diego Ridelink publishes a comprehensive map of the county detailing bike *paths* (for exclusive use by bicyclists), bike *lanes* (alongside motor vehicle ways), and bike *routes* (shared ways designated only by bike-symbol signs). It's available at visitor centers; to receive a copy in advance, call ☎ 800/266-6883.

Fast **Facts**

AREA CODES San Diego's main area code is **619,** used primarily by downtown, uptown, Mission Valley, Point Loma, Coronado, La Mesa, El Cajon, and Chula Vista. The area code **858** is used for northern and coastal areas, including Mission Beach, Pacific Beach, La Jolla, Del Mar, Rancho Santa Fe, and Rancho Bernardo. Use **760** to reach the remainder of San Diego County, including Encinitas, Carlsbad, Oceanside, Escondido, Ramona, Julian, and Anza-Borrego.

ATMS & BANKS One of California's most popular banks is Wells Fargo, a member of the Star, PLUS, Cirrus, and Global Access systems. It has hundreds of ATMs at branches and stores (including most Vons supermarkets) throughout San Diego County. Other statewide banks include Bank of America (which accepts PLUS, Star, and Interlink cards), and First Interstate Bank (Cirrus). Banks are open weekdays, 9am to 4pm or later, and sometimes Saturday morning.

BABYSITTERS **Marion's Childcare** (☎ 888/891-5029; www.hotelchildcare.com) has bonded babysitters available to come to your hotel room; rates start at $16 per hour with a 3-hour minimum. **Panda Services** (☎ 858/292-5503; www.sandiegobabysitters.com) is also available.

B&BS Check with the **San Diego Bed & Breakfast Guild** (☎ 619/523-1300; www.bandbguildsandiego.org).

BEACH & SURF REPORT Call ☎ 619/221-8824.

CONSULATES & EMBASSIES All embassies are in the nation's capital, Washington, D.C. Some consulates are in major U.S. cities, and most nations have a mission to the United Nations in New York City. For addresses and phone numbers of embassies in Washington, D.C., call ☎ 202/555-1212 or log on to www.embassy.org/embassies. The **British Consulate** in San Diego is at 7979 Ivanhoe Ave., La Jolla CA 92037 (☎ 858/353-3633). The **Mexican Consulate** is at 1549 India St., San Diego CA 92101 (☎ 619/231-8414).

DENTISTS For dental referrals, contact the **San Diego County Dental Society** at ☎ 800/201-0244, or call ☎ 800/DENTIST.

DISABLED TRAVELERS **Accessible San Diego** (☎ 858/279-0704;

www.accessandiego.org) has an info line that helps travelers find accessible hotels, tours, attractions, and transportation. If you call long distance and get the answering machine, leave a message, and the staff will call you back collect. Ask for the annual *Access in San Diego* pamphlet, a citywide guide with specifics on which establishments are accessible for those with visual, mobility, or hearing disabilities (cost is $5). Manual wheelchairs with balloon tires are available free of charge daily at the main lifeguard stations in Ocean Beach, Mission Beach, Pacific Beach, and La Jolla. The Mission Beach lifeguard station also has four electric wheelchairs available Fri to Sun, 11:30am to 3:30pm, beach conditions permitting (☎ 619/525-8247). Airport transportation for travelers with disabilities is available in vans holding one or two wheelchairs from **Cloud 9 Shuttle** (☎ 800/974-8885; www.cloud9shuttle.com).

DOCTORS **Hotel Docs** (☎ 800/468-3537) is a 24-hour network of physicians, dentists, and chiropractors. They accept credit cards, and their services are covered by most insurance policies.

ELECTRICITY Like Canada, the United States uses 110–120 volts AC (60 cycles), compared to 220–240 volts AC (50 cycles) in most of Europe, Australia, and New Zealand. Downward converters that change 220–240 volts to 110–120 volts are difficult to find in the United States, so bring one with you.

EMERGENCIES Call ☎ **911** for fire, police, or ambulance. The main **police station** is at 1401 Broadway, at 14th Street (☎ 619/531-2000, or TTY/TDD 619/531-2065). If you encounter serious problems, contact the San Diego chapter of **Traveler's Aid International** at ☎ 619/295-8393, or log on to www.travelersaid.org to help direct you to a local branch. This nationwide, nonprofit, social-service organization is geared to helping travelers in difficult straits, including reuniting families separated while traveling, providing food and/or shelter to people stranded without cash, or emotional counseling.

HOSPITALS Near downtown San Diego, **UCSD Medical Center–Hillcrest** (200 W. Arbor Dr.; ☎ 619/543-6400) has the most convenient emergency room. In La Jolla, **UCSD Thornton Hospital** (9300 Campus Point Dr.; ☎ 858/657-7600) has a good emergency room, and you'll find another in Coronado, at **Sharp Coronado Hospital** (250 Prospect Pl., opposite the Marriott Resort; ☎ 619/435-6251).

HOT LINES HIV Hot Line (☎ 619/236-2352); Alcoholics Anonymous (☎ 619/265-8762); Debtors Anonymous (☎ 619/525-3065); Mental Health referral and Suicide Crisis Line (☎ 800/479-3339); or Traveler's Aid Society (☎ 619/295-8393).

INSURANCE/LOST LUGGAGE On flights within the U.S., checked baggage is covered up to $2,500 per ticketed passenger. On flights outside the U.S. (and on U.S. portions of international trips), baggage coverage is limited to approximately $9 per pound, up to approximately $635 per checked bag. If you plan to check items more valuable than what's covered by the standard liability, see if your homeowner's policy covers your valuables, get baggage insurance as part of your comprehensive travel-insurance package, or buy Travel Guard's "BagTrak" product. If your luggage is lost, immediately file a lost-luggage claim at the airport, detailing the luggage contents. Most airlines require that you report delayed, damaged, or lost baggage within 4 hours of arrival. The airlines are

required to deliver luggage, once found, directly to your house or destination free of charge.

INSURANCE/MEDICAL Unlike many European countries, the United States does not usually offer free or low-cost medical care to its citizens or visitors. Doctors and hospitals are expensive, and in most cases will require advance payment or proof of coverage before they render their services. Good policies will cover the cost of an accident, repatriation, or death. Packages, such as **Europ Assistance's Worldwide Healthcare Plan,** are sold by European automobile clubs and travel agencies at attractive rates. **Worldwide Assistance Services, Inc.** (☎ 800/777-8710; www.worldwideassistance.com) is the agent for Europ Assistance in the United States. Though lack of health insurance may prevent you from being admitted to a hospital in nonemergencies, don't worry about being left on a street corner to die: The American way is to fix you now and bill the living daylights out of you later.

INSURANCE FOR BRITISH TRAVELERS Most big travel agents offer their own insurance and will probably try to sell you their package when you book a holiday. Think before you sign. **Britain's Consumers' Association** recommends that you insist on seeing the policy and reading the fine print before buying travel insurance. **The Association of British Insurers** (☎ 020/7600-3333; www.abi.org.uk) gives advice by phone and publishes *Holiday Insurance,* a free guide to policy provisions and prices. You might also shop around for better deals: Try **Columbus Direct** (☎ 0870/033-9988; www.columbusdirect.net).

INSURANCE FOR CANADIAN TRAVELERS Canadians should check with their provincial health plan offices or call **Health Canada** (☎ 866/225-0709; www.hc-sc.gc.ca) to find out the extent of their coverage and what documentation and receipts they must take home in case they are treated in the United States.

INSURANCE/TRIP CANCELLATION This will help retrieve your money if you have to back out of a trip or depart early, or if your travel supplier goes bankrupt. Permissible reasons for trip cancellation can range from sickness to natural disasters to the State Department declaring a destination unsafe for travel. For more information, contact one of the following recommended insurers: **Access America** (☎ 866/807-3982; www.accessamerica.com), **Global Alert** (☎ 800/423-3632; www.tripinsurance.com), **Travel Guard International** (☎ 800/826-4919; www.travelguard.com), **Travel Insured International** (☎ 800/243-3174; www.travelinsured.com), and **Travelex Insurance Services** (☎ 888/457-4602; www.travelex-insurance.com).

INTERNET Cafes, coffeehouses, and hotels provide a multitude of wireless options to travelers with laptops. For those without a computer, cybercafes have dwindled here, but you can find terminals at all **public libraries,** including the downtown central library (820 E St., ☎ 619/236-5800; www.sandiegolibrary.org), the Pacific Beach branch (4275 Cass St., ☎ 858/581-9934); and La Jolla (7555 Draper Ave., ☎ 858/552-1657). **Internet Place** charges $1.50 for 6 minutes, $2.30 for 15, $3.50 for 30, and $5.50 per hour; they have two locations: downtown in Horton Plaza, on the ground floor near Broadway Circle (☎ 619/702-4643), and Hillcrest, 3834 Fifth Ave. (☎ 619/299-9360).

LIQUOR LAWS The legal age for purchase and consumption of alcoholic beverages in California is 21.

Proof of age is a necessity—it's often requested at bars, nightclubs, and restaurants, even from those well into their 30s, so always bring ID when you go out. Beer, wine, and hard liquor are sold daily from 6am to 2am and are available in grocery stores. Do not carry open containers of alcohol in your car or any public area that isn't zoned for alcohol consumption—the police can fine you on the spot. Alcohol in a can, *not* a bottle, is allowed at most, but not all, San Diego beaches from noon to 8pm, on the sand only—check signs at beach entrances for exact rules.

MAIL Domestic postage rates are 26¢ for a postcard and 41¢ for a letter. For international mail, a first-class letter of up to 1 ounce costs 90¢ (69¢ to Canada and Mexico); a first-class postcard costs 90¢ (69¢ to Canada and Mexico). For more information go to **www.usps.com** and click on "Calculate Postage."

San Diego's main post office is located in the boondocks, but the former main office, located just west of Old Town at 2535 Midway Dr., is a good alternative; it's open Monday through Friday, 8am to 5pm, and Saturdays, 8am to 4pm. Post offices are downtown, at 815 E St. and at 51 Horton Plaza at Broadway Circle. There is also a post office in the Mission Valley Shopping Center, next to Macy's. These branch offices are generally open Monday through Friday during regular business hours, plus Saturday morning; for specific branch information, call ☎ 800/275-8777 or log on to www.usps.com.

PASSPORTS Always keep a photocopy of your passport with you when traveling. If it's lost or stolen, a copy will facilitate the reissuing process at a local consulate or embassy. Keep your passport and other valuables in the hotel or room safe.

RESTROOMS Horton Plaza and Seaport Village downtown, Balboa Park, Old Town State Historic Park, and the Ferry Landing Marketplace in Coronado all have well-marked public restrooms. In general, you won't have a problem finding one (all restaurants, including fast-food outlets, are required to have one). Restrooms are usually clean and accessible, though a small purchase is usually expected.

SAFETY San Diego is a relatively safe destination, by big-city standards. Of the 10 largest cities in the United States, it historically has had the lowest incidence of violent crime, per capita. Virtually all areas of the city are safe during the day. In Balboa Park, caution is advised in areas not frequented by regular foot traffic (particularly off the walkways on the Sixth Avenue side of the park). Transients are common in San Diego—especially downtown, in Hillcrest, and in the beach area. They are rarely a problem, but can sometimes be unpredictable. Downtown areas to the east of PETCO Park are sparsely populated after dusk, and poorly lit. Parts of the city that are usually safe on foot at night include the Gaslamp Quarter, Hillcrest, Old Town, Mission Valley, La Jolla, and Coronado.

SMOKING Smoking is prohibited in nearly all indoor public places, including theaters, hotel lobbies, and enclosed shopping malls. In 1998, California enacted legislation prohibiting smoking in all restaurants and bars, except those with outdoor seating. San Diego has also banned smoking from all city beaches and parks, which includes Mission Bay Park and Balboa Park, as well as piers and boardwalks.

TAXES Sales tax in restaurants and shops is 7.75%. Hotel tax is 10.5%.

TELEPHONES **Local calls** made from public pay phones cost either 35¢ or 50¢. Pay phones do not accept pennies, and few will take anything larger than a quarter. Most long-distance and international calls can be dialed directly from any phone. **For calls within the United States and to Canada,** dial 1 followed by the area code and the seven-digit number. **For other international calls,** dial 011 followed by the country code, city code, and the number you are calling. For **reversed-charge or collect calls,** and for person-to-person calls, dial the number 0 then the area code and number; an operator will come on the line, and you should specify whether you are calling collect, person-to-person, or both. If your operator-assisted call is international, ask for the overseas operator. For **local directory assistance** ("information"), dial 411; for long-distance information, dial 1 and then the appropriate area code and 555-1212.

TIME ZONE San Diego, like the rest of the West Coast, is in the Pacific Standard Time zone, which is 8 hours behind Greenwich Mean Time. Daylight-saving time is observed. To check the time, call ☎ 619/853-1212.

TIPPING In hotels, tip **bellhops** at least $1 per bag ($2–$3 if you have a lot of luggage) and tip the **chamber staff** $1 to $2 per day (more if you've left a disaster area to clean up). Tip the **doorman** or **concierge** only if he or she has provided you with some specific service (for example, calling a cab for you or obtaining difficult-to-get theater tickets). Tip the **valet-parking attendant** $1 every time you get your car. In restaurants, bars, and nightclubs, tip **service staff** 15% to 20% of the check, tip **bartenders** 10% to 15%, tip **checkroom attendants** $1 per garment, and tip **valet-parking attendants** $1 per vehicle. Tip **cab drivers** 15% of the fare; tip **skycaps** at airports at least $1 per bag ($2–$3 if you have a lot of luggage); and tip **hairdressers** and **barbers** 15% to 20%.

TRANSIT INFORMATION Call ☎ 619/233-3004 (TTY/TDD 619/234-5005). If you know your bus route and just need schedule information, call ☎ 619/685-4900.

WEATHER Call ☎ 619/289-1212.

A Brief **History**

It's believed that humans first arrived in San Diego's coastal areas some 20,000 years ago, while others settled in the desert about 8,000 years later. The first cultural group, which is now referred to as the San Dieguito people, date back to 7,500 BCE. They were followed by the La Jollan culture, which populated the coastal mesas until about 1,000 to 3,000 years ago. The Diegueños followed about 1,500 years ago, and existed in two groups: the Ipai, who lived along the San Diego River and northeast toward what is now Escondido, and the Tipai, or Kumeyaay, who lived south of the river into Baja California and east toward Imperial Valley.

In 1542, a Portuguese explorer in the employ of Spain, **Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo,** set out from the west coast of Mexico, principally in search of a northwest passage that might provide an easier crossing

between the Pacific Ocean and Europe. En route he landed at a place he charted as San Miguel, spending 6 days to wait out a storm and venture ashore, doing a meet-and-greet with three fearful Kumeyaay (who had heard tales of white men killing natives to the east and south) before heading north along the coast. Although Cabrillo wrote favorably about what he saw, it would be 60 years before Europeans visited San Miguel again. When Spanish explorer Sebastián Vizcaíno sailed into the bay on the feast day of San Diego de Alcalá in 1602, he renamed it in honor of the saint. But despite Vizcaíno calling it "a port which must be the best to be found in all the South Sea," San Diego Bay was all but ignored by invaders for the next century and a half.

In 1768, Spain, fearing that Russian enclaves in Northern California might soon threaten Spanish settlements to the south, decreed the founding of colonies in Southern California. The following year, following an arduous 110-day voyage from the tip of Baja California, the *San Carlos* arrived into San Diego Bay on April 29, 1769, leading "the sacred expedition" of **Father Junípero Serra,** a priest who had been charged with the task of spreading Christianity to the indigenous people. Serra would arrive about 2 months later via an overland route.

The site for a mission was selected just above the San Diego River, on a prominent hill that offered views onto plains, mesas, marshes, and the sea. The **Presidio de San Diego** was the first of what would be 21 missions in Alta California (the first mission in Baja California was established in 1697); a fort was built to surround and protect the settlement. After 4 years, Father Serra requested permission to relocate the mission to Nipaguay, a site 6 miles (10km) up the valley, next to an existing Kumeyaay village. Although the mission provided the indigenous people with a more sustainable existence, it came at a price: Their culture was mostly lost; communities were shattered by foreign diseases from which they had no natural immunities; and those who defied the Spaniards or deserted the new settlements were punished by whipping or confinement.

In 1821, as what is now known as **Old Town** started to take shape, Mexico declared independence from Spain. California's missions were secularized; the Mexican government lost all interest in the native people and instead focused on creating sprawling rancheros. The Mexican flag flew over the Presidio, and in 1825, San Diego became the informal capital of the California territory.

The **Mexican-American War** took root in 1846, spreading from Texas west, creating brutal battles between the Californios and the Americans. By 1847 the Californios had surrendered, the treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo was signed a year later, and Mexico was paid $15 million for what became the southwestern United States. In 1848, gold was discovered near Sacramento and the **gold rush** began. In 1850, California was made the 31st state, and San Diego was established as both a city and county.

In 1850, William Heath Davis, a San Francisco financier, purchased 160 acres (65 hectares) of bayfront property with plans to develop a "new town." Residents of Old Town scoffed, and despite Davis' construction of several prefabricated houses and a wharf, the citizens stayed rooted at the base of the Presidio and labeled the project "Davis' Folly." But in 1867, another developer, Alonzo Horton, also saw the potential of the city and bought 960 acres (389 hectares) of bayfront land for

$265. This time, people started moving into the new town, and by 1869 San Diego had a population of 3,000; a devastating fire in Old Town in 1872 proved to be the final blow for the original settlement.

In 1915, despite a competing event in San Francisco, San Diego's **Panama-California Exposition** was a fabulous success, and it spurred the development of 1,400-acre (567-hectare) **Balboa Park** into fairgrounds of lasting beauty. The barrage of publicity from the 2-year fair touted San Diego's climate and location, and helped put the city on the map.

Toward the end of the 19th century, the **U.S. Navy** began using San Diego as a home port. In 1908 the Navy sailed into the harbor with its battleship fleet and 16,000 sailors—the War Department laid plans to dredge the bay to accommodate even larger ships. Aviator Glenn Curtiss convinced the Navy to designate $25,000 to the development of aviation, and soon after he opened a flying school at North Island, the northwestern lobe of the Coronado peninsula. World War I meant construction projects, and North Island was established as a Marine base. The Navy built a shipyard at 22nd Street in downtown, and constructed a naval training station and hospital in 1921. America's first aircraft carrier docked in San Diego in 1924.

Aviator T. Claude Ryan started Ryan Aviation to build military and civilian aircraft and equipment, and in 1927 he built The Spirit of St. Louis for Charles A. Lindbergh, a young airmail pilot. Only a few weeks after taking off from North Island, Lindbergh landed in Paris and was toasted as the first to fly solo across the Atlantic. In 1928, San Diego's airport was dedicated as **Lindbergh Field.**

A second world's fair, the 1935–36 **California-Pacific International Exposition,** allowed the Spanish colonial architecture in Balboa Park to be expanded, and many tourists became residents. In the decades to come, though, downtown stumbled the way many urban centers did in the 1960s and 1970s, filled after dark with the homeless and inebriated. In 1974, the **Gaslamp Quarter**—the new name for Alonzo Horton's New Town—was designated as a historic district. Little occurred to revitalize downtown at first, but a redevelopment plan was established and the first step was taken when **Seaport Village,** a waterside shopping complex at the south end of the Embarcadero, opened in the early '80s. In 1985, a $140-million shopping center next to Horton Plaza opened to raves, and San Diegans responded immediately, coming downtown to shop and dine as they hadn't in a generation. Another wave of downtown development saw the opening of the $474-million ballpark **PETCO Park** in 2004.

Today's San Diego owes a lot to **medical and high-tech industries**—biotechnology, pharmaceutical, and telecommunications in particular. One economic think tank declared the city to be the nation's number one "biotech cluster," supported by a steady flow of research from academic institutions like the University of California, San Diego, the Scripps Research Institute, and the Salk Institute. The biotech industry here also provides a home base for 13 science-based Nobel Prize winners and is directly responsible for nearly 39,000 jobs and some $8.5 billion in local economic impact.

San Diego's motto of "America's Finest City" was quietly retired several years back following a tragicomic series of political scandals,

some of which are still playing out. There was a tainted mayoral election (and the ensuing ascension of three different mayors over an 8-month period); the conviction of two city council members on charges of doing the bidding of a strip-club operator, with a third accused councilman dropping dead before he went to trial; and one spectacularly thieving U.S. congressman—Rep. "Duke" Cunningham, currently serving out his 8-year sentence for his infamous "bribe menu."

That's all topped by an estimated $1.4 to $2 *billion* deficit in the city-employee pension fund. Creative bookkeeping is suspected, prompting city, U.S. attorney, FBI, IRS, and Securities and Exchange Commission investigations, and leading the *New York Times* to dub San Diego "Enron by the sea." Stay tuned.

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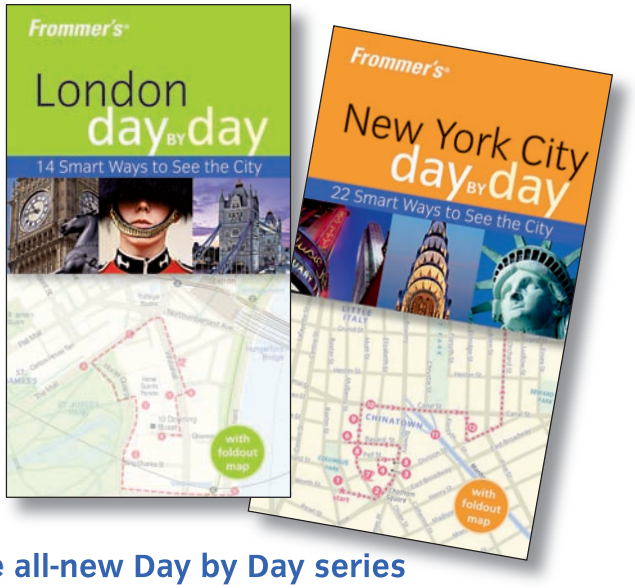

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